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ABSTRACT

This volume presents information from a social indicators project designed to shed light on factors affecting civic health in twenty-six communities where John S. and James L. Knight published newspapers and provided grants to improve quality of life. Seven chapters discuss research results: (1) "Listening and Learning" (e.g., growth of community indicators, putting indicators to use, and sharing with communities); (2) "Demographic, Economic and Social Context of Knight Communities"; (3) "Civic Engagement (e.g., volunteering, charitable giving, and attitudes about race/ethnicity); (4) "Education" (e.g., charter schools, perceptions of illiteracy, and influences on perceptions of local public schools and illiteracy); (5) "Well-Being of Children and Families" (e.g., perceptions of unsupervised youth, perceptions of child care, and involvement with youth development organizations); (6) "Housing and Community Development" (e.g., perceptions of safety, perceptions of homelessness, and perceptions of employment); and (7) "Vitality of Cultural Life" (e.g., perceptions of arts and culture, performance ratings of local public libraries, and attendance of nonprofit arts and cultural activities). Each chapter includes an overview, current community conditions, and survey findings. Three appendices present survey methodology, a bibliography, and data sources. (SM)

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John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

LISTENING AND LEARNING

COMMUNITY INDICATOR PROFILES OF KNIGHT FOUNDATION COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION

March 2001

Report Prepared By:

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Princeton Survey Research Associates

American Institutes for Research

The Urban Institute

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On the cover:
Concerns about crime and her children's safety led Debbie Wilson to form a neighborhood watch group. Her initiative along with help from police and neighbors has helped transform her Saxon Street neighborhood in Tallahassee into a better place to live.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

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INTRODUCTION

It was a lifetime ago when Walter Lippmann observed that representation of neglected interests can be repaired simply by the systematic collection and dissemination of data. For example, he said in his 1922 work *Public Opinion*, the publication of statistics on infant mortality is often followed by a reduction in the death rate of babies. "The statistics made them visible, as visible as if the babies had elected an alderman to air their grievances."

With this volume, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation embarks on a social indicators project designed to give visibility to factors affecting civic health in the 26 communities where Jack and Jim Knight published newspapers. In life, the two brothers displayed their concern for these communities by practicing journalism at a higher level than a pure short-term profit motive would have demanded. Now their work is carried forward with different tools, but in the same spirit, and it has potential uses that go beyond the interests of the individual cities and counties.

Social indicator information with the mix of hard and soft data displayed in these pages has been available at the national level for some time. The hard numbers come from government agencies and are systematically displayed in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States.* Softer numbers about attitudes and opinions have been accumulating in university archives since the 1930s when public opinion polling first gained scientific status. Since 1972, the General Social Survey of the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center has tracked such social and political indicators as party membership, issue priorities and attitudes toward divisive issues like capital punishment and abortion. But this kind of systematic tracking is usually judged too costly and labor-intensive for the community level.

Making it available at the local level provides the double benefit of self-assessment for the communities and the analytical possibilities from having the same data tracked in 26 very different places.

While not formally representative of the United States as a whole, these Knight communities are sufficiently diverse geographically, socially and economically to create a fertile population for exploratory research on important public policy issues. A group of communities like this one might not have fallen into a pure probability sample of the nation, but the historic factors that led to their inclusion are almost as much a result of pure chance.

Starting in Akron and running their father's newspaper, the Beacon Journal, the brothers expanded where their interests and circumstance directed them. "I didn't inherit a newspaper," Jack would say decades after

his father's death in 1933. "I inherited an opportunity." The only obvious bias in the sample of communities where they put their growing body of capital to work was that they were all east of the Mississippi. That imbalance was nicely and precisely repaired in 1974 when Knight Newspapers merged with Ridder Publications, whose newspapers were all in the west. The present list of 26 communities became fixed as objects of the Knight Foundation's attention when the board agreed to emphasize their historic ties to the two brothers who created its wealth.

The opportunities for the communities are enormous. Like the Knight Newspapers when Jack and Jim Knight ran them as a loosely organized confederation, they can watch one another's experiments and borrow the best ideas. Stealing the best ideas from other editors, Jack told a National Press Club luncheon in the 1970s, is "the pinnacle of good journalism." It can also be the pinnacle of community progress.

Political scientists have often made the same point about the nation's federal system, which leaves the states room to experiment and swap ideas. But imitation is most efficient with sound evaluation, and this new data collection enterprise will facilitate the experiments and bring the possibilities for comparison down to an intensely local level.

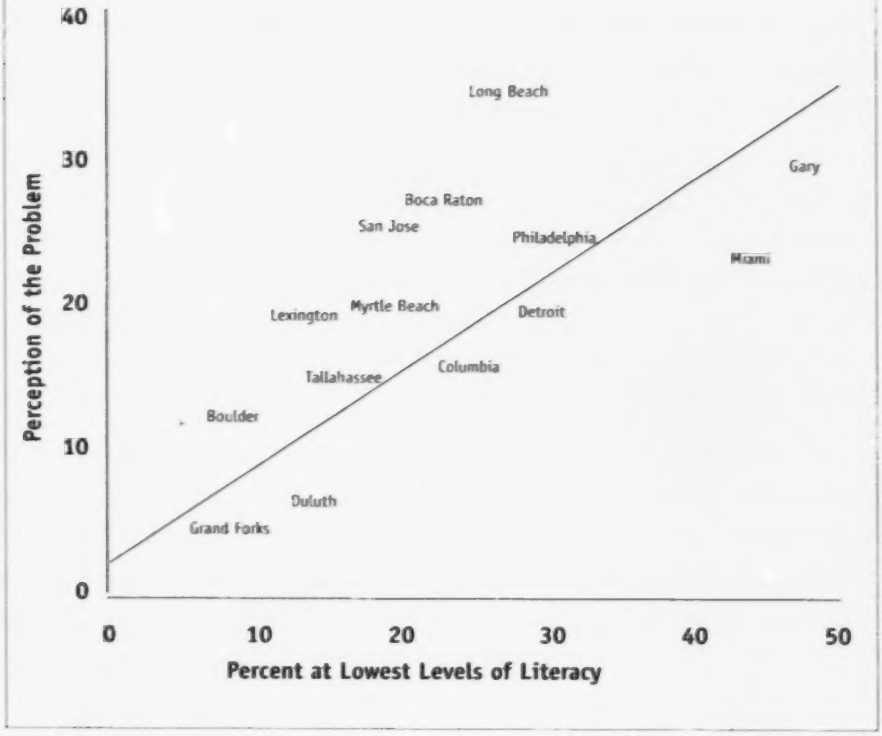
Anyone who thinks that 26 is too small a number of cases for useful generalization should read Robert Putnam's seminal work on social capital, *Making Democracy Work: the Democratic Tradition in Modern Italy*. With a population of just 20 Italian states to work with, he produced striking scatter plots that showed how various measures of social capital and economic and political well-being rose and fell together.

An example from a subset of Knight Foundation's 26-community sample appears on the next page. It shows how the belief that illiteracy is a big local problem correlates with a community's actual illiteracy rates. The vertical scale shows the percent calling illiteracy a "big problem" while the horizontal gives the percent of adults at the lowest literacy level. The cities cluster clearly around the rising slope, an indication that citizen concerns over literacy as a problem are well grounded in reality. Long Beach is an interesting outlier in that its citizens consider the problem far worse than do those who live in communities with actual rates of illiteracy that are similar or even greater. Why? Data like these supply not only answers but also more interesting questions than could be imagined without them.

It is impossible for a researcher who cares about communities and their newspapers to read this document without seeing a tantalizing array of such opportunities to pursue the answers to interesting questions.

For example, what is the effect of income inequality on the

TABLE 1: PERCEPTION OF LITERACY (IN PERCENTAGE)



development of a community and the relationship of its citizens to their institutions? Can the public schools be saved, or have the most powerful elements in the community given up, sent their own children off for private education and left the public schools to fend for themselves?

Do newspapers still make a difference in the information age? The survey charts both readership and a softer variable, trust in the newspaper read most often. The interaction of those two factors, trust and readership, could answer questions about media effects and sense of community that have proven elusive to researchers so far.

As I write this, three of my doctoral students are attacking this data set with gusto, looking for researchable questions whose answers can be made into dissertations. They are only the vanguard of a much larger force of scholars who will find the data in the archives of the Odum Institute at Chapel Hill. So there is benefit at three levels: to the communities themselves, to Knight Foundation in the evaluation of its philanthropic strategies and to a more general knowledge base about how media work and affect their communities.

The next generation of scholars will be trying to use future versions of this knowledge base to find out how the new media forms, including the hybrids of traditional and online distribution systems that are now developing, will affect citizens' sense of community. Are we all going to burrow in our homes with only the computer connecting us to the outside world? Or will the intensely greater velocity of information make us newly aware of our neighbors and produce citizens who are eager to meet face to face to solve our common problems?

Perhaps we shall have the tools to follow T. S. Eliot's advice to "arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." Knight Foundation has given us all a wonderful opportunity for the knowing of place. The Knight brothers would be proud. So would Walter Lippmann.

"I didn't inherit a newspaper," said Jack Knight. "I inherited an opportunity."

Renee Sabugo, a student in the De Anza College Child Development and Education Program in San Jose, helps Justin O'Neil, 2, with a story. Lack of affordable, quality child care was often cited as a local problem by participants in Knight's surveys.

LISTENING AND LEARNING

John Bare, Ph.D.
Director of Program Development and Evaluation, Knight Foundation

Deepening Our Understanding of Communities

For the past three years, we at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation have been listening and learning. We've spoken with more than 16,000 people in the 26 U.S. communities where we have an enduring commitment to support nonprofit efforts to improve the quality of life. We've reviewed thousands of pages from existing reports on education, housing, arts and other aspects of civic life. Millions of pieces of data emerged. Through what we call our Community Indicators project, we have harvested and organized the most compelling items to help us deepen our knowledge of our communities and, ultimately, to improve our grant making. We need to be aware of the setting to be a good local partner.

Through a variety of reports and presentations, we are sharing the material with grant recipients, local decision-makers, residents of our communities and researchers. Here, we've packaged a summary of the key findings from across communities.

In interviews, adults in our communities have told us about their fear of crime, their firm belief that they can make an impact on their community and their opinion of the performance of their local government. They've pointed to problems their community must overcome in order to move forward, problems such as too many unsupervised youth, too little affordable housing or not enough arts and cultural opportunities. They've distinguished big problems from small ones and told us about issues they believe do not amount to much of a problem at all. Further, the interviews have revealed that many families live in isolation, with little or no relationship with their nearest neighbors, and they have shown us how deeply race and ethnicity mark the boundaries of individuals' local experiences.

We have also heard lots about how adults in our communities spend their time. They've told us about trips to hear symphonies and visits to museums. They've told us about volunteering for charitable groups, attending services at a local house of worship, keeping up with the local news and surfing the Internet.

Some highlights from our conversations:

- Americans are generally happy with their local communities. Nationwide, eight in 10 people say that their community is an excellent or a good place to live. Such positive community ratings are also reported across the Knight communities, with one key exception. There is generally less satisfaction reported in urban areas.

- Despite the conventional wisdom that local governments are closer to the people and more responsive, many Americans put their local city or town governments at the low end of the list when they rate the performance of local institutions. Nationally, 55 percent say their local government does at least a good job, a figure much lower than the positive ratings for local fire departments, libraries, public schools and even the police. This pattern holds across many of the Knight communities with local governments always being among the two lowest rated local institutions.
- Ratings of local public schools, on the other hand, are volatile. Nationally, about six in 10 adults give positive ratings to their local public schools. But beneath that nationwide figure there is dramatic variation from one Knight community to the next. For example, in some communities, such as Grand Forks, nearly eight in 10 say the public schools are doing an excellent or a good job. That share drops to fewer than four in 10 in other communities such as Philadelphia.
- People from different racial or ethnic backgrounds – even those living within the same physical geography – have consistently different points of view about a number of community issues, including those related to crime, community development and education. The disparity in perceptions of arts and cultural activities is especially compelling.
- The surveys reveal that three background characteristics are consistently important to active citizenship, both nationwide and across the Knight communities: the belief that one can have an impact in making his or her community a better place to live, volunteerism for community organizations and regular attendance of religious services. Each of these "civic engines" is strongly related to positive involvement in community life.

To complement the interviews, we also reviewed existing reports that document local conditions. From these, we gained a deeper understanding of the economic and social context of the communities in which residents live, work and play. We know which communities benefited most from the nation's record run of economic growth and which ones still are struggling to attract jobs. We know where child poverty has declined and where it continues to tamp down hope. We also have a clearer view of the state of local education, housing, literacy and children's issues. We know

where arts organizations tend to be in financial trouble and where they are strongest. We know where third-grade reading performance is at crisis levels. We know where infant-mortality rates are rising.

In each case, we've relied upon the most current data available. We carried out the interviews in 1999. Many of the existing reports are based on data from the late 1990s. In a few cases, we relied on 1990 Census data. Already, we are updating this information as 2000 Census data is made available.

Growth of Community Indicators

In designing our effort, we benefited from the experiences of others. Since Jacksonville, Fla., initiated its local community indicators effort in 1985, hundreds of similar projects have emerged around the country. Redefining Progress, an Oakland, Calif., research organization, has identified more than 200 U.S. indicators projects. These vary in size, scope and topical focus. Some projects dig deep into one community. Others track common indicators across multiple communities, in some cases to serve an analytic or evaluation function related to a major social experiment such as welfare reform. Recently, Redefining Progress and the International Institute for Sustainable Development merged their database of indicators projects, which provides an annotated directory of projects around the world. See Appendix II for a bibliography of indicator projects and related resources Knight Foundation reviewed in preparing this work.

An "indicator" may be described as "a set of statistics that can serve as a proxy or metaphor for phenomena that are not directly measurable," according to a Redefining Progress report from Clifford Cobb. However, the term is often used less precisely to mean any "data pertaining to social conditions." Or, as Kate Besleme explains in another Redefining Progress paper: "Indicators are simply quantitative information, or data, tracked over time. In the context of community indicators projects, they are quantitative information about what has often been considered a qualitative subject: the well-being of communities."

Several leaders in the field describe this sweeping collection of projects as a movement, with one report arguing that it is driven by "grassroots leaders seeking better ways to measure progress, to engage community members in a dialogue about the future, and to change community outcomes." The effort grows out of the history of social reporting, as Marc Miringoff describes in *The Social Health of the Nation*, an effort

to find ways to track the social health of the nation that would stand along side established indicators – such as the GDP or the unemployment rate – used to measure the nation's economic health.

In the United States, from about 1910 to 1940, there were several major social reporting efforts, including projects focused on the well-being of American children and projects examining several aspects of the American social condition, including the environment, arts, health and rural life. Some projects also focused on U.S. communities, such as E.L. Thorndike's application of his "goodness scale" to 297 communities in his 1939 book, *Your City*.

In the 1960s, as Miringoff and others have documented, there was a renewed focus on social reporting in the United States; this is when the term "social indicators" was coined. Despite the recent energy at the local level, U.S. indicators efforts remain decentralized and highly project-specific. In contrast, nearly all other western nations have established standard, comprehensive reporting mechanisms to document and track cultural and social indicators.

Several leaders in the field describe this sweeping collection of projects as a movement...

Measure What You Value Most

Useful community indicators projects hinge on the ability of the intended user to understand and state its mission clearly. To narrow down an endless list of potential indicators, we worked to identify indicators most closely related to Knight Foundation's mission: investing in the vitality of 26 communities.

For Knight Foundation, that meant focusing on information that deepens our understanding of the local context and shining light on the areas of civic life that represent our enduring interests: Education; Well-being of Children and Families; Housing and Community Development; Civic Engagement; and the Vitality of Cultural Life. This report is organized by chapters on these topics.

The strategic plan Knight Foundation trustees adopted late in 2000 affirmed our commitment to these areas of local grant making. Thus, the broad, generalist nature of these categories leaves us with a resource that will serve us now and into the future. Foundation trustees also identified a new local priority: Economic Development. As we update our work, we plan to add a corresponding module that will describe key indicators in this area.

As a tool for philanthropy, indicators projects must measure that which foundations hope to affect. The work requires more than an effort to produce a needs assessment, which may point to a general area of need but fail to identify specific factors the community must change in order to improve quality of life.

In contrast, indicators projects describe aspects of civic life in ways that enable communities to turn information into action. Stakeholders first can agree on which aspect of civic life they want to change. Next, they can decide how much they want to move the marker over time. Finally, they can craft strategies designed to help them reach intermediate benchmarks on their way to the ultimate target. Knight Foundation is using its indicators to help set funding priorities.

"Indicators are simply quantitative information, or data, tracked over time."

–Kate Besleme

Putting the Indicators to Use

As part of our new approach to local grant making, we are crafting a top-down, bottom-up approach. From the top, the Foundation has identified the six broad targets we value. We realize that the grant strategies we employ will be as varied and complex as the communities themselves. Thus, in each Knight town and city, we want people to come together to identify priorities for Knight Foundation funding. The Foundation is coordinating meetings with our local advisory committees to have them recommend a few priority outcomes Knight's grant making should seek to produce for the next three to five years. The indicators have been one of the key information tools we use in the process of reviewing priorities.

This bottom-up feature allows communities to shape customized efforts that fit within Foundation targets. It also allows the Foundation to form long-term partnerships with organizations pursuing high-risk and experimental ventures. We are committed to share what we learn across our 26 local laboratories.

The approach combines traditional sources of local knowledge with findings from our community indicators. The indicators provide, for the first time, a reliable source of information about local conditions, citizen behaviors and attitudes within and across our communities.

In 2000, we experimented with this approach in a small number of Knight communities. Considering the critical changes that must occur to improve the quality of life in the community, each committee worked to define the specific accomplishments Knight Foundation should aim for in

partnership with nonprofits. From 2001-2003, we will bring all Knight communities into this new approach to grant making.

As a planning tool, we can blend data from our indicators work with other information tools to help stakeholders reach agreement on funding priorities for each Knight Foundation community.

As an analytic tool, indicators can help increase our understanding of complex social conditions. Researchers, for instance, have used indicators to disentangle the relationship between neighborhood affluence and the well-being of children.

Indicators are highly effective tools for stakeholders.

More commonly, indicators are highly effective tools for enlightening stakeholders. Indicators projects contribute to – and do not displace – the value of other information tools. In many cases, indicators do not cause stakeholders to change course; instead, they help stakeholders improve and refine their ongoing work. For instance, indicators help Foundation staff prepare for site visits. Indicators help us ask sharper questions in the due diligence phase of grant making. Perhaps most important, indicators force us to question our own biases and conventional wisdom.

Further, indicators can serve as a neutral resource that all groups in the grant making process can use equally. With applicants having access to data the Foundation possesses, the playing field is leveled among various stakeholders.

There are, of course, cautions to using indicators in grant making. Staff and local leaders must not forget what they know when in the presence of data. They must not follow data blindly in setting priorities. Also, indicators data do not dictate what Knight stakeholders value. For our work in Knight communities, we want to identify grant-making priorities at the intersection of indicators information and local knowledge. Somewhere in the mix of data-driven priorities and stakeholder values, each Knight community will find a slipper that fits.

Sharing With Our Communities

From 1990-99, Knight Foundation trustees approved 2,143 local grants totaling $150 million to improve the quality of life in those 26 communities. Our commitment is growing. As we get to know our communities better, it follows that Knight Foundation can make grants with greater impact. We can also form more effective partnerships. That's why we're our own first audience for this work.

But the audience for this information extends beyond Knight Foundation's offices. Nonprofit organizations, community foundations, other foundations, researchers and writers are interested in using the information in a variety of ways. In response, we are sharing what we've compiled through our listening and learning.

In Chapter 2, we present information that describes the demographic, economic and social context of our 26 communities, otherwise known as community conditions. We gathered this information from existing reports. As always, we try to include U.S. data as benchmarks.

Chapter 3 describes what we learned from existing reports – again, community conditions – about civic engagement in our communities and around the nation, as well as a narrative summary of what we discovered through our interviews with thousands of adults. We follow this same format in chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7 as we present survey findings related to education, the well-being of children and families, housing and community development, and the vitality of cultural life.

In the technical appendix, we provide methodological documentation for the national survey, a copy of the results of that survey and an outline of the indicators measures we gathered from existing reports. The appendix materials also include highlights of each community's survey.

Here's a list of the 26 Knight Foundation communities and their corresponding home counties:

Aberdeen, S.D. (Brown County)
Akron, Ohio (Summit County)
Biloxi, Miss. (Harrison County)
Boca Raton, Fla. (Palm Beach County)
Boulder, Colo. (Boulder County)
Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee County)
Charlotte, N.C. (Mecklenburg County)
Columbia, S.C. (Richland County)
Columbus, Ga. (Muscogee County)
Detroit, Mich. (Wayne County)

Duluth, Minn. (St. Louis County)
Fort Wayne, Ind. (Allen County)
Gary, Ind. (Lake County)
Grand Forks, N.D. (Grand Forks County)
Lexington, Ky. (Fayette County)
Long Beach, Calif. (Los Angeles County)
Macon, Ga. (Bibb County)
Miami, Fla. (Miami-Dade County)
Milledgeville, Ga. (Baldwin County)
Myrtle Beach, S.C. (Horry County)
Philadelphia, Pa. (Philadelphia County)
St. Paul, Minn. (Ramsey County)
San Jose, Calif. (Santa Clara County)
State College, Pa. (Centre County)
Tallahassee, Fla. (Leon County)
Wichita, Kan. (Sedgwick County)

In most cases, our inquiries focused on the home county of each community. Even in the few communities where we have broader geographic funding interests, most of our grant support is aimed at helping the home county. Further, data collection always requires choices; to launch the project, we had to put boundaries on our inquiries. In some cases, existing data were not always available for all possible jurisdictions. In future updates, we expect to be able to add a regional component in communities where this is relevant. Also, we are putting to use research and reports others have produced that will help fill gaps in our own work.

There are some notable exceptions to our practice of examining the home county. Because the municipalities of Gary and Long Beach are dramatically different from their home counties, we tried to focus on the central city. In South Florida, our relationship with Boca Raton and Miami have made Broward County – situated between those two communities – a natural area of interest for Knight Foundation. So our survey findings include information on Broward County, and we try to point out cases where Broward or Miami-Dade counties stand out from the crowd. In Columbia, we also surveyed two counties – Richland and Lexington – because the municipality draws citizens who live and work in both counties. When we describe results for Columbia, we are describing results from the two-county analysis.

To help readers, in the tables that present survey findings, we have tried to include specific descriptions of the geographic area surveyed along with the community name. In the narrative sections describing the survey findings, we tend to rely on the community name as a shorthand device. We tried not to get too bogged down in technical issues here. In the sections on community conditions, we have tried to specify whether the data describe the home county, the central city or another geographic area – such as a public school district, which often does not follow any logical community boundaries.

Despite our efforts to make documentation transparent, we are limited because this is actually a summary of dozens of detailed indicators reports. In a way, it's even a summary of many summaries. There is an enormous amount of supporting technical documentation we can provide to help researchers or others interested in replicating the work. Also, there are individual reports for every community that provide high levels of detail on each of the 26 Knight communities, so we have plenty to share with readers interested in digging deeper. Readers with questions should consult the Foundation's web site (www.knightfdn.org) for access to other reports or call us at the Foundation.

We also have made the original survey data available for scholars and researchers to use in secondary analysis. The data and documentation are archived with the Howard W. Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Through its web site (http://www.irss.unc.edu/data_archive/), the Odum Institute makes the instruments, data and reports available for free.

The Elian Gonzalez saga of 2000 added new tensions to already strained ethnic and cultural ties in Miami-Dade County. Josie Goytisolo, above, attended a community roundtable forum to discuss ways the community can work together.

Chapter 2

DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONTEXT OF KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

Why Knight Foundation Cares

For Knight Foundation, it is not enough to measure the social, economic and cultural outcomes a community produces. It is necessary to understand the setting in which citizens live, work and play. Only by understanding this context can we hope to implement grant projects effectively. Strategies appropriate for one local setting may not work in other places. We must consider the specific mix of opportunities and challenges in each locale.

The 26 Knight communities represent a patchwork. Collectively, they serve as local laboratories, ready for experimentation and exchanging ideas with peers. Some communities are rich in resources, blessed by enough financial and human capital to set their eyes on a prize that far exceeds any national average. Expectations for these communities must be high, as critical economic barriers have been removed.

Other communities face tremendous stresses. In those locales, many adults lack a basic education. Many families struggle to acquire life's necessities. Here, we must seek small gains within a larger plan for systemic change. These communities need help boosting the capacity of all three sectors – nonprofit, business and government – in order to spark engines for progress.

Knight communities touch all points along this continuum. In San Jose and Boulder, the growth of technology industries has produced extraordinary wealth. Fueled by strong financial institutions, Charlotte is emblematic of rapid growth across Sun Belt communities. The challenge for these communities is extending prosperity to all citizens.

In communities such as St. Paul and Aberdeen, we found a pretty even blend of assets and challenges. Both, for instance, have lower shares of children living in poverty than the nation as a whole. However, both communities have populations that are stagnant or declining.

In communities such as Gary, Philadelphia and Macon, citizens live in environments marked by numerous challenges: high unemployment, low family-income levels and high percentages of children living in poor homes.

Aberdeen, S.D. (Brown County)
Akron, Ohio (Summit County)
Biloxi, Miss. (Harrison County)
Boca Raton, Fla. (Palm Beach County)
Boulder, Colo. (Boulder County)
Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee County)
Charlotte, N.C. (Mecklenburg County)
Columbia, S.C. (Richland County)
Columbus, Ga. (Muscogee County)
Detroit, Mich. (Wayne County)
Duluth, Minn. (St. Louis County)
Fort Wayne, Ind. (Allen County)
Gary, Ind. (Lake County)
Grand Forks, N.D. (Grand Forks County)
Lexington, Ky. (Fayette County)
Long Beach, Calif. (Los Angeles County)
Macon, Ga. (Bibb County)
Miami, Fla. (Miami-Dade County)
Milledgeville, Ga. (Baldwin County)
Myrtle Beach, S.C. (Horry County)
Philadelphia, Pa. (Philadelphia County)
St. Paul, Minn. (Ramsey County)
San Jose, Calif. (Santa Clara County)
State College, Pa. (Centre County)
Tallahassee, Fla. (Leon County)
Wichita, Kan. (Sedgwick County)

One thing we learned from the Community Indicators project is that our ability to make a difference hinges on our understanding of the local context. Taken alone, the customary statistics used to sum up the well-being of the nation are not enough. They mask the remarkable differences that separate urban Philadelphia from seaside Boca Raton, Charlotte's banking industry from the Grand Forks wheat fields, Macon's old South from Silicon Valley's new wealth. In the future, as we deepen our relationships with nonprofits in our 26 communities, the Foundation aims to support efforts to customize funding strategies that maximize opportunity for each community.

Current Community Conditions: Demographic, Economic and Social Context of Knight Communities

Indicators for Demographic, Economic, Social Context of Communities:

1. General Population Characteristics
- Absolute and Percentage Change in Population

2. Community Diversity
- Residents from Minority Backgrounds

3. Socioeconomic Status
- Median Household Income
- Adult Population with Higher Education Degree
- Population in Poverty

4. Special Needs Populations
- Children and Youth Under 18 Years Old
- Elderly Adults
- Population That Does Not Speak English at Home
- Children Under 18 in Poverty
- Households Headed by Females with Children

5. Labor Force Characteristics
- Unemployment Rate
- Changes in Employment
- Average Wages of Employed People

6. Criminal Justice
- Police Officers per 1,000 Population
- Operating Expenditures per Capita for Local Police Departments

Why This is Important: The background characteristics of a community provide the context for understanding how communities differ on key dimensions. The context section of the profiles focuses on several important demographic, economic and social characteristics of the Knight communities. It compares communities on demographic characteristics such as population change, minority populations and age groups in the population such as the elderly. Economic measures such as median household income and unemployment rates are also considered in the community context, because they provide a measure of the financial and human resources available to support community life. Finally, the context section compares communities on social indicators such as children living in poverty and people who do not speak English as their native language. These measures highlight the segments of a community's population with special needs that may require support from public or private funds. Based on all of these measures, it is possible to assess how well communities are prepared to provide livable environments for their residents.

One thing we learned from this project is that our ability to make a difference hinges on our understanding of the local context.

Highlights: Knight communities differ greatly in their demography, as well as in their economic and social characteristics. Some communities have substantial resources and relatively small concentrations of people with special needs, while others have relatively weaker resource bases and populations with greater needs. Communities are grouped based on the relative strengths of their economic bases and their concentrations of populations with special needs.

Our assessment of community strengths and needs is based on "rankings" of communities on each indicator of community life. The rankings go from "1" to "26," with "1" representing the most favorable value on the indicator and "26" the least. In each area of community life, the 26 communities are also divided into five groups or "quintiles," based on their ranking on the indicators. Here there are five quintile rankings that go from "1" to "5." Again, a value of "1" puts a community in a group that has the most favorable values on the indicator and "5" the least favorable value.

- **Five Knight communities – Mecklenburg, Boulder, Allen, Fayette and Centre counties – consistently rank relatively high on indicators of economic and financial resources and low on demographic and economic indicators associated with special needs.** These communities share several important characteristics. All five have above national-average household incomes, below-average child-poverty rates and relatively low rates of unemployment.

In seven Knight communities, economic and social context indicators point clearly in the direction of community stress.

In addition, these communities all have below-average elderly populations and relatively small concentrations of people who do not speak English as their native language. However, the communities differ in the rates of population growth. While Mecklenburg and Boulder counties grew in population during the 1990s at rates that were more than double the national average, Allen, Fayette and Centre counties had below-average rates of population growth over this period.

- **Four Knight communities – Leon, Grand Forks, Sedgwick and Santa Clara counties – form the next tier in their economic and social context.** Like the first group, these communities generally have above national-average household incomes, relatively low child-poverty rates and below-average unemployment rates. All four communities also have below-average elderly populations, and three of the four have relatively small concentrations of people whose home language is not English. Only Santa Clara County has a relatively large, non-English-speaking population – at 30 percent, more than twice the national average. Finally, all four communities grew in population during the 1990s, but again growth rates varied considerably. Leon, Sedgwick and Santa Clara counties all had above-average rates of population growth, while Grand Forks County's population declined by more than 5 percent over the decade.
- **The five Knight communities in the middle of the continuum – Ramsey, Summit, Richland, Brown and Manatee counties – are less consistent in their economic and social characteristics.** Three of the five communities (Ramsey, Summit and Richland counties) have above-average household incomes, while household incomes in Brown and Manatee counties are below the national average. Child-poverty rates also vary, with below-average rates in Brown, Ramsey, Summit and Manatee counties, and an above-average child-poverty rate in Richland County. Elderly populations also differ substantially – from Manatee County, whose elderly population is almost twice the national average; to Richland County, with an elderly population that is only 77 percent of the national average. A final area of difference across the communities is population change. While Manatee County grew during the 1990s by more than 13 percent, population growth in Richland and Summit counties was much lower; and Ramsey and Brown counties both had small population declines over the period.

Table 2: Quintile Ranking of Knight Communities on Selected Context Measures

Community	1990–1998 Population Change	1995 Median Household Income	1995 Percent Children in Poverty	1990 Percent Non-English Speaking Population	1990 Percent Elderly Population	1996 Unemployment Rate	Overall Quintile Ranking
Long Beach, CA	4	4	5	5	3	5	5
Santa Clara County, CA	2	1	1	5	2	2	2
Boulder County, CO	1	1	1	5	1	3	1
Palm Beach County, FL	1	2	3	5	5	5	4
Manatee County, FL	1	4	3	4	5	2	3
Miami-Dade County, FL	2	5	5	5	4	5	5
Leon County, FL	2	2	3	3	1	1	1
Muscogee County, GA	4	5	4	4	3	4	5
Bibb County, GA	4	4	5	1	4	4	4
Baldwin County, GA	3	4	4	1	2	3	3
Allen County, IN	3	1	1	1	3	2	1
Gary, IN	5	5	5	4	3	5	5
Sedgwick County, KS	2	2	2	3	2	3	2
Fayette County, KY	3	2	3	1	2	1	1
Wayne County, MI	4	3	5	4	4	4	5
St. Louis County, MN	5	3	2	2	5	5	4
Ramsey County, MN	5	1	2	4	4	2	3
Harrison County, MS	2	5	4	2	3	3	3
Mecklenburg County, NC	1	1	2	2	1	2	1
Grand Forks County, ND	5	4	1	3	1	1	2
Summit County, OH	4	2	3	2	4	3	3
Philadelphia County, PA	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Centre County, PA	3	3	1	3	2	1	2
Richland County, SC	3	3	4	2	1	3	2
Horry County, SC	1	5	4	1	5	4	4
Brown County, SD	5	3	2	3	5	1	3

- **In five Knight communities – Baldwin, Harrison, St. Louis, Horry and Palm Beach counties – economic and social context indicators point to weaker resource bases and populations with greater potential needs.** Four of the five communities (Baldwin, Harrison, St. Louis and Horry counties) have below-average household incomes; three (Baldwin, Harrison and Horry counties) have above-average child-poverty rates; and all have relatively high unemployment rates compared to the other Knight communities. Three of the five communities (St. Louis, Horry and Palm Beach counties) also have relatively large elderly populations. However, of the five communities, only Palm Beach exceeds the national average in its non-English-speaking population. On the positive side, four of the five communities grew in population during the 1990s, with growth rates in Horry and Palm Beach counties more than double the national average. Only one community, St. Louis County, declined in population over the period.
- **In seven Knight communities – Gary and Long Beach; Philadelphia, Miami-Dade, Wayne, Muscogee and Bibb counties – economic and social context indicators point clearly in the direction of community stress.** All seven communities have below-average median household incomes, well-above-average child-poverty rates and the highest unemployment rates of the Knight communities. Most of the communities have elderly populations that are at or above the national average, and three of the communities (Long Beach and Miami-Dade and Philadelphia counties) have very high concentrations of people whose home language is not English. With the exception of Miami-Dade County, all of these communities showed either slow population growth or population decline during the 1990s. Gary and Philadelphia represent the extremes in population decline, with population decreases of 7 percent and 9.4 percent over the period.

Table 3: General Population Characteristics of Knight Communities

Community	1990 Population	1998 Population	Rank	Population Change	Percent Population	Rank
Long Beach, CA	429,321	430,905	10	1,584	0.4%	19
Santa Clara County, CA	1,497,577	1,641,215	3	143,638	9.6%	9
Boulder County, CO	225,339	267,274	13	41,935	18.6%	4
Palm Beach County, FL	863,503	1,032,625	5	169,122	19.6%	3
Manatee County, FL	211,707	239,682	15	27,975	13.2%	5
Miami-Dade County, FL	1,937,194	2,152,437	1	215,243	11.1%	7
Leon County, FL	92,493	216,978	16	24,485	12.7%	6
Muscogee County, GA	179,280	182,752	18	3,472	1.9%	18
Bibb County, GA	150,137	156,086	21	5,949	4.0%	17
Baldwin County, GA	39,530	41,968	25	2,438	6.2%	12
Allen County, IN	300,836	314,218	11	13,382	4.5%	15
Gary, IN	116,646	108,469	23	-8,177	7.0%	25
Sedgwick County, KS	403,662	448,050	9	44,388	11.0%	8
Fayette County, KY	225,366	241,749	14	16,383	7.3%	11
Wayne County, MI	2,111,687	2,118,129	2	6,442	0.3%	20
St. Louis County, MN	198,213	193,431	17	-4,782	-2.4%	23
Ramsey County, MN	485,783	485,636	8	-147	-0.0%	21
Harrison County, MS	165,365	177,981	19	12,616	7.6%	10
Mecklenburg County, NC	511,481	630,848	6	119,367	23.3%	1
Grand Forks County, ND	70,683	66,869	24	-3,814	-5.4%	24
Summit County, OH	514,990	537,730	7	22,740	4.4%	16
Philadelphia County, PA	1,585,577	1,436,287	4	-149,290	-9.4%	26
Centre County, PA	124,812	132,700	22	7,888	6.3%	14
Richland County, SC	286,321	307,056	12	20,735	7.2%	13
Horry County, SC	144,053	174,762	20	30,709	21.3%	2
Brown County, SD	35,580	35,433	26	-147	-0.4%	22
U.S.	248,165,170	270,298,524	N/A	22,133,354	8.7%	N/A
Knight Communities	13,007,136	13,771,270	N/A	764,134	5.9%	N/A
Knight Community Average	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.4%	N/A

General Population Characteristics of Knight Communities

Why This is Important: Population changes have important consequences for communities. Communities with growing populations may be able to attract new businesses and increase their tax bases to support better public services. However, they may also face problems in managing growth and maintaining a healthy environment. Communities with decreasing populations may face contractions in their resource base and may have difficulty managing the loss of resources and people.

Indicators of Population Change: Two indicators of population change are: (1) absolute change in population from 1990 to 1998, and (2) the percentage change in population from 1990 to 1998.

Key Findings:

- On average, Knight communities grew in population by 6.4 percent between 1990 and 1998. However, some communities grew very rapidly, others grew more slowly and a number of communities declined in population over the period.
- Population growth from 1990 to 1998 was largest in Mecklenburg and Horry counties – 23.3 percent and 21.3 percent, respectively. Other communities with relatively large population growth (above 10 percent) were Palm Beach, Boulder, Manatee, Leon, Miami-Dade and Sedgwick counties.
- Communities with low population growth (less than 5 percent) included Long Beach and Wayne, Muscogee, Bibb, Summit and Allen counties.
- Three Knight communities (Ramsay, Brown and St. Louis counties) showed a small population decline (less than 5 percent) from 1990 to 1998, and another three (Gary and Grand Forks and Philadelphia counties) declined in population by more than 5 percent.

Table 4: General Population Characteristics of Knight Communities

Population Change – Percent Change from 1990 to 1998

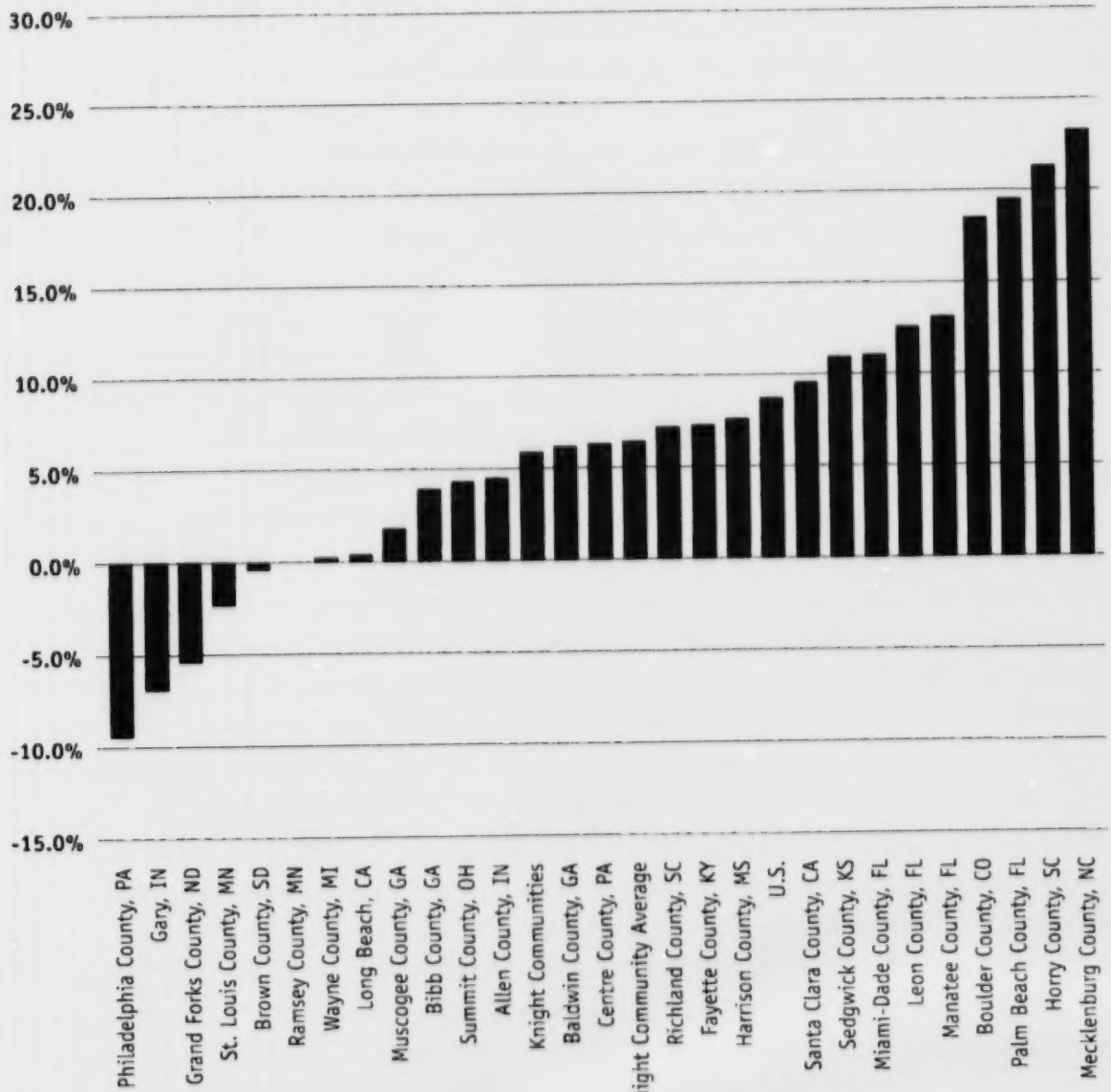
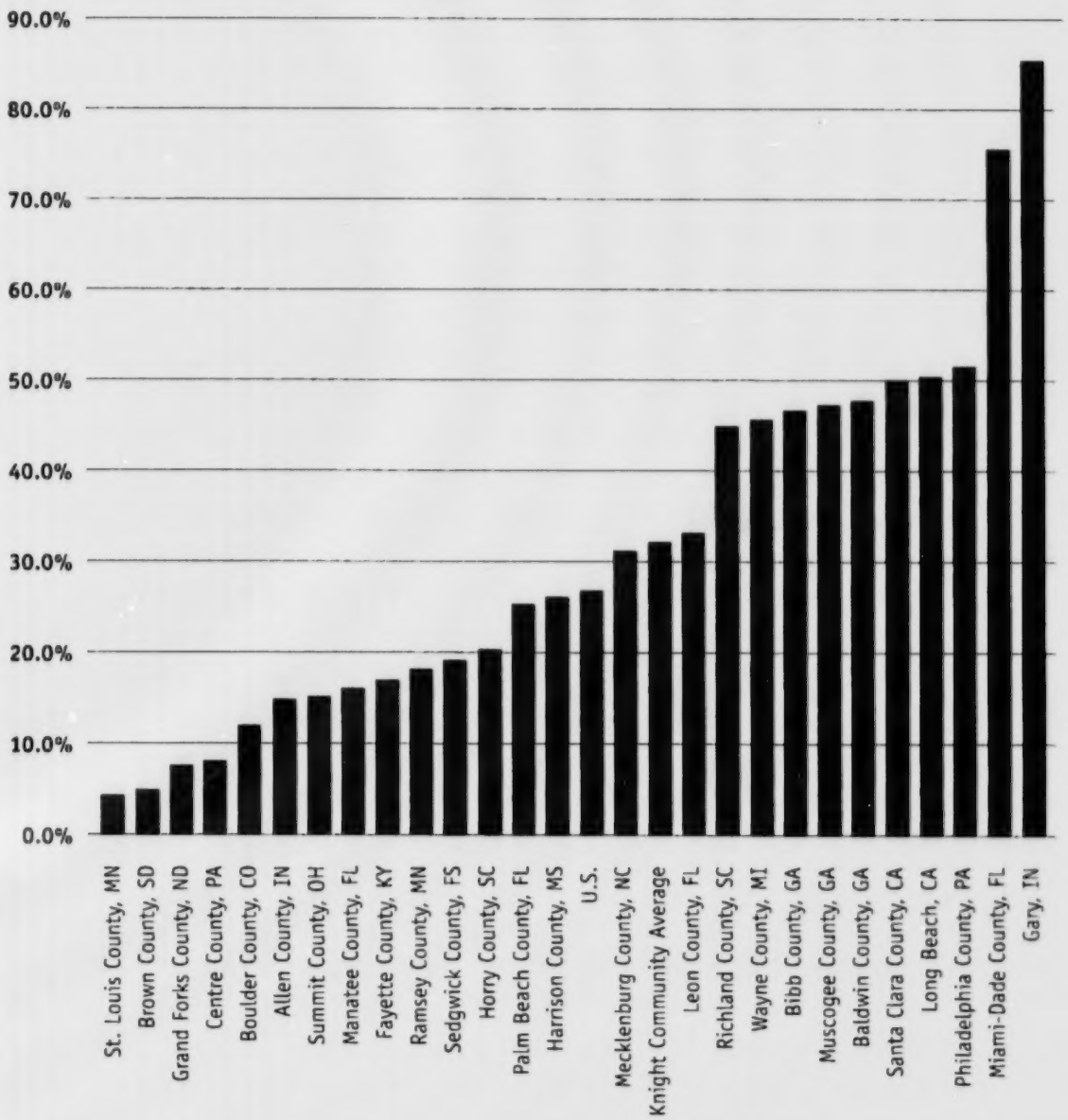


TABLE 5: COMMUNITY DIVERSITY IN KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

Percent Minority Population, 1998



Community Diversity in Knight Communities

Why This is Important: The racial and ethnic composition of a community provides some measure of the diversity of the population. It may also have significance for the drawing of political boundaries and the design and administration of municipal and social services.

Indicators of Racial and Ethnic Diversity: Racial and ethnic diversity is measured in this indicator as the percent of residents in a community who are from minority backgrounds. Minority group members included in the indicator are: African-Americans, Asians, Hispanics and American Indians.

Key Findings:

- Racial and ethnic minorities average 32 percent of the population in Knight communities, but communities differ substantially in their racial and ethnic diversity. The proportion of minority residents ranges from a little more than 4 percent in St. Louis County and Brown County to 86 percent in Gary.
- Gary and Miami-Dade and Philadelphia counties contain the largest minority populations at 86 percent, 76 percent and 53 percent, respectively. In Gary and Philadelphia County, African-Americans comprise the largest minority group; in Miami-Dade County, Hispanics are the largest minority.
- Other communities with large minority populations include Long Beach and Santa Clara, Muscogee, Bibb, Baldwin, Wayne and Richland counties. Hispanics comprise the largest minority in the two California counties; African-Americans are the dominant minority in Wayne County and in Southern communities.
- Minorities comprise a very small portion of the population (less than 10 percent) in four Knight communities – St. Louis County (4.3 percent), Brown County (4.5 percent), Grand Forks County (8.1 percent) and Centre County (8.5 percent).

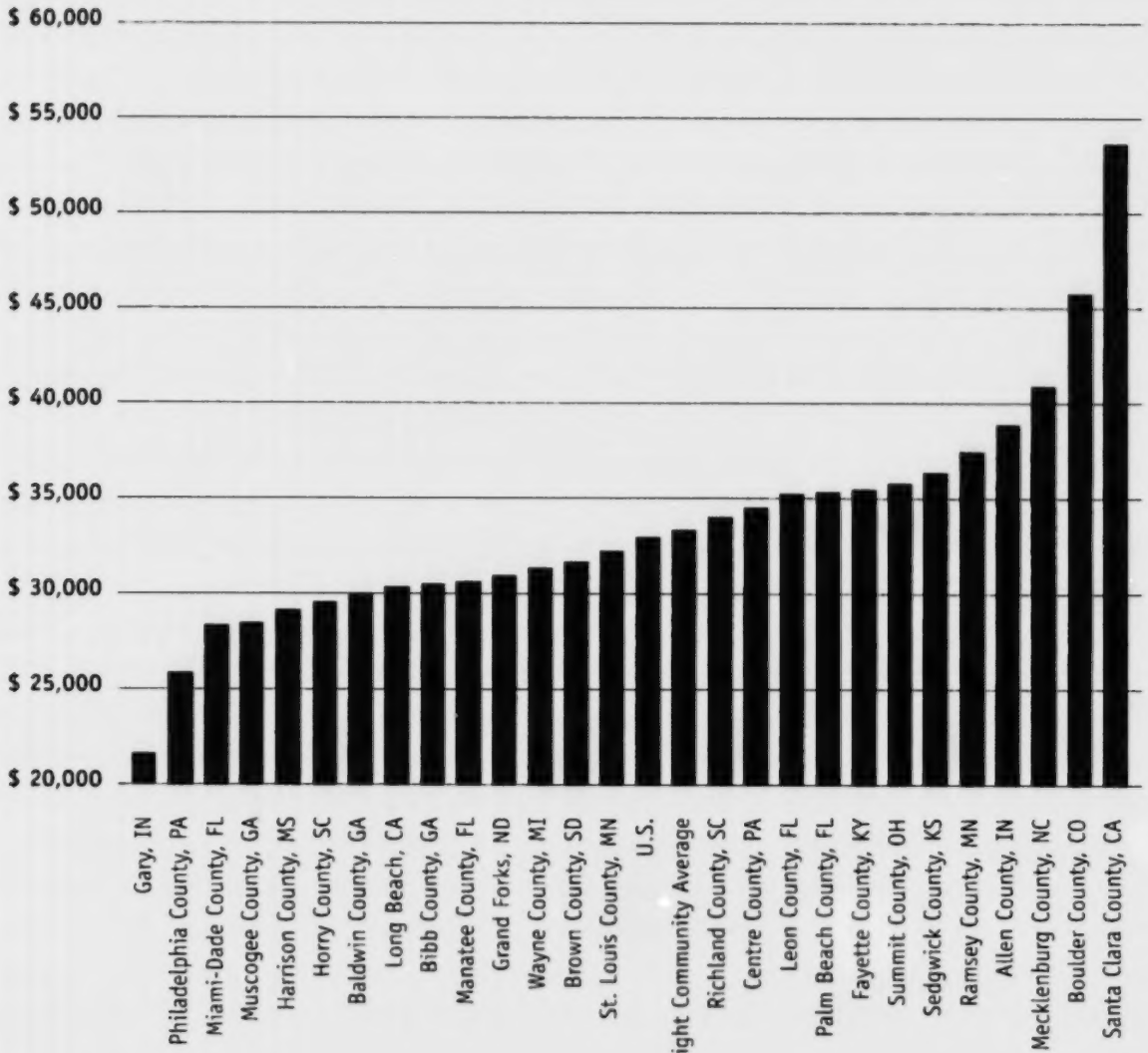
TABLE 6: COMMUNITY DIVERSITY IN KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

Community	1998 Percent Minority	Rank	1998 Percent African-American	Rank (*)	1998 Percent Hispanic	Rank (*)	1998 Percent Asian	Rank (*)	1998 Percent American Indian	Rank (*)
Long Beach, CA	50.3%	23	13.7%	12	23.3%	24	13.6%	25	0.64%	20
Santa Clara County, CA	50.0%	22	3.8%	6	25.4%	25	21.9%	26	0.69%	21
Boulder County, CO	12.4%	5	1.0%	3	8.0%	22	3.2%	20	0.63%	19
Palm Beach County, FL	25.8%	13	14.5%	14	10.7%	23	1.6%	11	0.22%	6 (T)
Manatee County, FL	16.6%	8	9.4%	8	6.5%	20	0.9%	5	0.38%	16 (T)
Miami-Dade County, FL	76.5%	25	20.4%	16	56.8%	26	1.8%	12	0.26%	9
Leon County, FL	32.9%	16	27.7%	19	3.2%	15	2.1%	15	0.35%	13 (T)
Muscogee County, GA	48.8%	20	42.1%	20	4.9%	17	2.3%	16	0.36%	15
Bibb County, GA	48.4%	19	46.7%	25	1.0%	4	0.8%	4	0.15%	2 (T)
Baldwin County, GA	48.9%	21	46.4%	24	1.5%	6 (T)	1.1%	6 (T)	0.12%	1
Allen County, IN	15.4%	6	11.4%	10	2.8%	13	1.3%	8 (T)	0.32%	12
Gary, IN	85.7%	26	80.6%	26	5.4%	18	0.1%	1	0.18%	5
Sedgwick County, KS	19.0%	11	9.5%	9	6.2%	19	2.9%	19	1.12%	23
Fayette County, KY	17.7%	9	13.9%	13	1.6%	8	2.3%	16	0.16%	4
Wayne County, MI	46.8%	18	42.4%	22	2.9%	14	1.5%	10	0.38%	16 (T)
St. Louis County, MN	4.3%	1	0.8%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	3	2.03%	24
Ramsey County, MN	18.7%	10	6.6%	7	4.2%	16	7.5%	24	1.03%	22
Harrison County, MS	27.1%	14	20.9%	17	2.5%	11	3.7%	21	0.35%	13 (T)
Mecklenburg County, NC	31.9%	15	26.5%	18	2.5%	11	2.7%	18	0.45%	18
Grand Forks County, ND	8.1%	3	2.3%	4	2.2%	9	1.8%	12	2.18%	25
Summit County, OH	15.5%	7	13.4%	11	0.8%	3	1.3%	8 (T)	0.22%	6 (T)
Philadelphia County, PA	53.2%	24	43.3%	23	7.3%	21	3.8%	22	0.27%	10 (T)
Centre County, PA	8.5%	4	2.6%	5	1.5%	6 (T)	4.4%	23	0.15%	2 (T)
Richland County, SC	46.2%	17	42.1%	20	2.4%	10	1.9%	14	0.27%	10 (T)
Horry County, SC	20.1%	12	17.6%	15	1.3%	5	1.1%	6 (T)	0.24%	8
Brown County, SD	4.5%	2	0.2%	1	0.5%	1	0.6%	2	3.26%	26
U.S.	27.7%	N/A	12.7%	N/A	11.2%	N/A	3.9%	N/A	0.90%	N/A
Knight Community Average	32.1%	N/A	21.5%	N/A	7.2%	N/A	3.4%	N/A	0.63%	N/A

Note: Race and ethnicity data for Long Beach, CA and Gary, IN are for 1990.
*(T) designates a tie with another Knight community that shares the same ranking.

TABLE 7: SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS OF KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

Median Household Income, 1995



Socioeconomic Status of Knight Communities

Why This is Important: A community's socioeconomic status reflects the overall education and income levels of community residents. Communities with higher education and income levels generally have the human and financial resources needed to compete for economic activity and to support the economic and social health of the community. In contrast, communities with lower education and income levels may face economic and social problems and may not have the resources to address them.

Indicators of Socioeconomic Status: Three economic and social indicators are used as measures of a community's socioeconomic status. These are: (1) median household income, (2) the percent of the adult population over 25 that has completed higher education (a bachelor's degree and graduate degrees) and (3) the percent of the population in poverty.

Key Findings:

- Median household income in the Knight communities averaged $34,109 in 1995 – just above the U.S. average of $34,076, but the range in household income was substantial. Median household income in Santa Clara County ($53,490) was nearly 2.5 times the household income in Gary ($22,471).
- The highest-income Knight communities are Santa Clara, Boulder and Mecklenburg counties; other high-income communities include Sedgwick, Fayette, Palm Beach, Allen and Summit counties.
- The lowest-income communities are Gary, Philadelphia County, and Long Beach; other low-income communities include Bibb, Baldwin, Muscogee, Miami-Dade and Horry counties.
- Knight communities vary widely in the education levels of their adult populations. In 1990, 42 percent of adults in Santa Clara County had completed at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 9 percent in Gary.
- Household income is strongly related to education levels in Knight communities. Communities in which adults have completed higher levels of education (Boulder and Santa Clara counties) tend to have higher household incomes. Communities with lower levels of educational attainment (Gary, Philadelphia County) generally have lower household incomes.

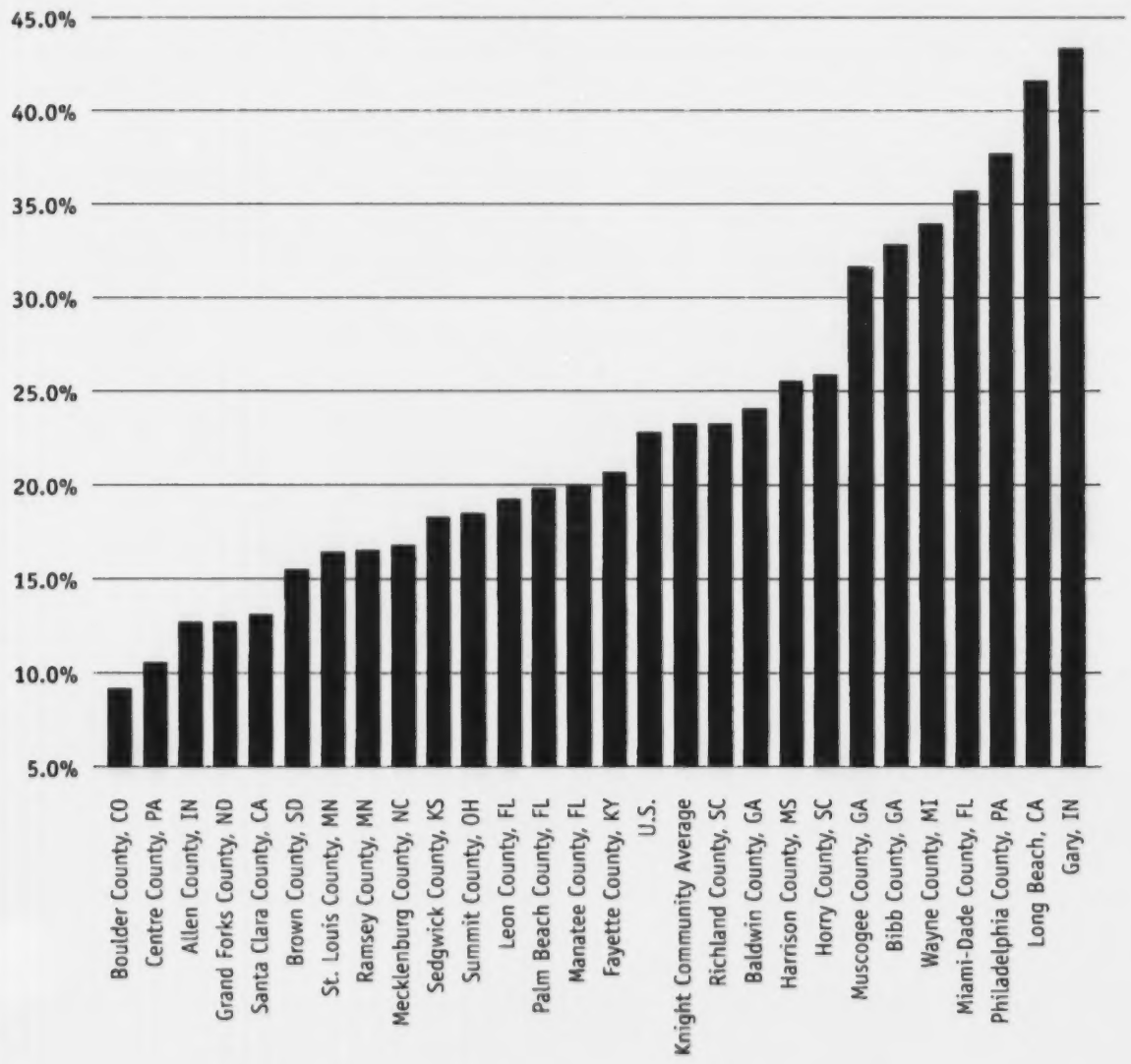
Table 8: Socioeconomic Status of Knight Communities

Community	1990 Percent Completers of Bachelor's and Graduate Degrees	Rank	1995 Median Household Income	Rank	1995 Percent People in Poverty	Rank (*)
Long Beach, CA	23.2%	10	30,899	19	25.3%	25
Santa Clara County, CA	32.6%	3	53,490	1	9.1%	3
Boulder County, CO	42.1%	1	46,199	2	8.0%	1
Palm Beach County, FL	22.1%	12	35,833	9	11.9%	11
Manatee County, FL	15.5%	22	31,416	17	12.1%	13
Miami-Dade County, FL	18.8%	16	28,915	24	23.6%	23
Leon County, FL	37.1%	2	35,111	10	14.3%	15
Muscogee County, GA	16.6%	19	28,972	23	20.6%	21 (T)
Bibb County, GA	17.0%	18	31,355	18	21.6%	22
Baldwin County, GA	13.4%	25	30,050	20	17.7%	19
Allen County, IN	19.0%	15	38,669	4	8.9%	2
Gary, IN	8.8%	26	22,471	26	28.3%	25
Sedgwick County, KS	22.2%	11	36,845	6	11.8%	10
Fayette County, KY	30.6%	5	35,887	8	13.3%	14
Wayne County, MI	13.7%	24	32,382	15	20.6%	21 (T)
St. Louis County, MN	17.3%	17	33,064	13	12.0%	12
Ramsey County, MN	28.8%	6	37,222	5	10.9%	7 (T)
Harrison County, MS	16.3%	20	29,229	22	16.8%	18
Mecklenburg County, NC	28.3%	7	41,655	3	10.9%	7 (T)
Grand Forks County, ND	25.9%	9	32,161	16	10.9%	7 (T)
Summit County, OH	19.7%	14	36,301	7	11.3%	9
Philadelphia County, PA	15.2%	23	26,854	25	23.8%	24
Centre County, PA	32.3%	4	34,826	11	10.8%	5
Richland County, SC	28.0%	8	34,387	12	15.6%	16
Horry County, SC	16.0%	21	29,758	21	15.8%	17
Brown County, SD	20.7%	13	32,883	14	10.1%	4
U.S.	20.3%	N/A	34,076	N/A	13.8%	N/A
Knight Community Average	22.4%	N/A	34,109	N/A	15.2%	N/A

- In five Knight communities (Boulder, Leon, Santa Clara, Centre and Fayette counties), at least 30 percent of adults have completed at least a bachelor's degree. All of these communities are home to the flagship campus of the state university or a major state college.
- Educational attainment levels are lowest in three Knight communities – Gary, Baldwin and Wayne counties. In all of these communities, less than 15 percent of the adult population has attained at least a bachelor's degree.

Table 9: Special Needs Populations in Knight Communities

Percent Children under 18 in Poverty, 1995



Special Needs Populations in Knight Communities

Community residents with different characteristic may require special services to help them succeed in their roles as family members, citizens and workers.

Why This is Important: Community residents with different characteristics may require special services to help them succeed in their roles as family members, citizens and workers. The need to provide these services may place financial burdens on communities with large concentrations of residents who require special services.

Indicators of Special Needs Populations: Special needs populations include: (1) the percent of children and youth under 18 years old, (2) the percent of elderly adults (age 65 and over), (3) the percent of the population that does not speak English at home, (4) the percent of children under 18 in poverty and (5) the percent of households with children headed by females.

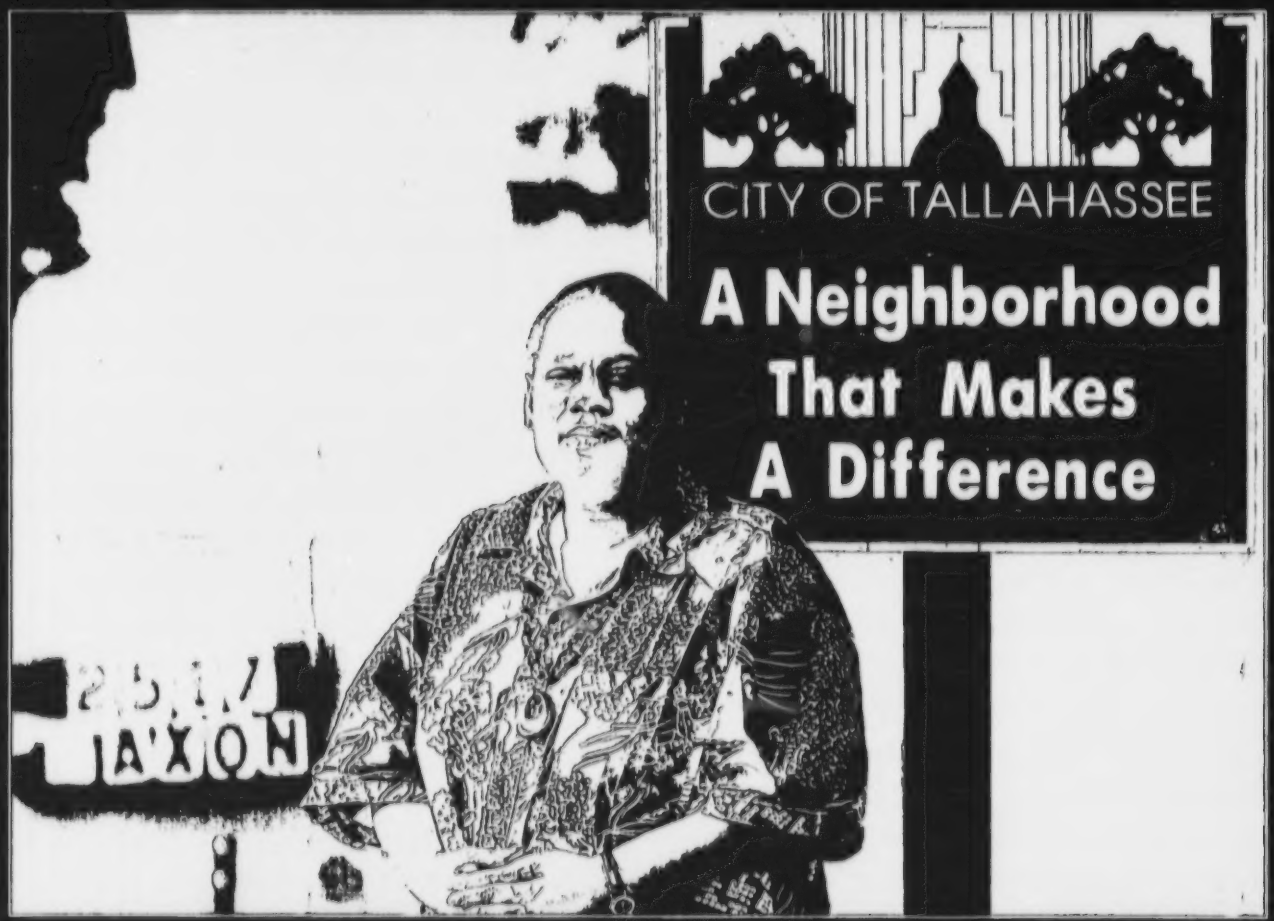
Key Findings:

- Child poverty in the Knight communities in 1995 (23.2 percent) was about 2.3 percentage points above the U.S. average. But the range across communities was substantial – from over 40 percent in Gary and Long Beach to under 10 percent in Boulder County.
- The Knight communities with the highest levels of child poverty (more than 30 percent) include Gary and Long Beach and Philadelphia, Miami-Dade, Wayne, Bibb and Muscogee counties. Communities with low levels of child poverty (under 15 percent) include Boulder, Centre, Allen, Grand Forks and Brown counties.
- The Knight communities differ significantly in their non-English-speaking populations. Nearly three-fifths of Miami-Dade County residents (57.4 percent) speak a language other than English at home and more than 30 percent of the population of Long Beach and Santa Clara County are "non-English-speaking." However, less than 5 percent of community residents are non-English-speaking in five Knight communities (Bibb, Baldwin, Horry, Fayette and Allen counties).
- Elderly residents average about 13 percent of the population in Knight communities – just above the U.S. average of 12.7 percent. However, the elderly population varies substantially across the communities. People over 65 comprise about one-fourth of the population in Palm Beach and Manatee counties, but less than 10 percent of the total in five counties – Boulder, Leon, Grand Forks, Mecklenburg and Richland.

Table 10: Special Needs Populations in Knight Communities

Community	1998 Percent Youth Population	Rank (*)	1998 Percent Elderly Population (65 and Over)	Rank	1990 Percent Non-English-Speaking Population	Rank (*)	1995 Percent Children under 18 in Poverty	Rank (*)	1990 Percent Female-Headed Households w/ Children	Rank (*)
Long Beach, CA	25.4%	20	11.6%	11	32.8%	25	42.4%	25	26.0%	20
Santa Clara County, CA	24.8%	14	10.1%	7	30.2%	24	13.4%	5	15.1%	4
Boulder County, CO	23.0%	8	8.5%	1	8.6%	21	9.3%	1	16.0%	5
Palm Beach County, FL	21.2%	2	24.6%	25	15.3%	23	19.5%	13	18.8%	10
Manatee County, FL	21.5%	3	26.0%	26	7.7%	18	20.0%	14	18.7%	9
Miami-Dade County, FL	25.0%	16	14.2%	20	57.4%	26	36.0%	23	23.5%	16
Leon County, FL	24.4%	12(T)	8.7%	2	6.2%	12	18.9%	12	24.4%	18
Muscogee County, GA	26.6%	21(T)	11.9%	13	6.9%	16(T)	32.6%	20	28.3%	21
Bibb County, GA	26.1%	19	12.9%	17	2.9%	1	33.9%	21	31.9%	23
Baldwin County, GA	22.8%	6(T)	11.4%	9	3.9%	2(T)	24.5%	17	30.9%	22
Allen County, IN	27.1%	24	11.7%	12	4.9%	5	13.3%	3(T)	17.6%	6
Gary, IN	31.7%	26	12.0%	14	6.9%	16(T)	43.5%	26	47.8%	26
Sedgwick County, KS	27.6%	25	11.5%	10	6.3%	13	17.2%	10	18.3%	7 (T)
Fayette County, KY	21.8%	4	10.3%	8	4.8%	4	20.1%	15	23.6%	17
Wayne County, MI	26.6%	21(T)	12.7%	16	8.4%	20	34.8%	22	36.5%	25
St. Louis County, MN	24.3%	11	16.5%	24	5.6%	7	15.9%	7	18.3%	7 (T)
Ramsey County, MN	24.9%	15	13.1%	18	8.0%	19	16.9%	8	21.4%	14(T)
Harrison County, MS	26.7%	23	12.1%	15	5.7%	8	26.0%	18	21.2%	13
Mecklenburg County, NC	25.6%	18	9.3%	4	5.8%	9(T)	17.0%	9	21.1%	12
Grand Forks County, ND	24.4%	12(T)	8.9%	3	6.0%	11	13.3%	3(T)	13.8%	2
Summit County, OH	24.1%	9	14.1%	19	5.2%	6	18.8%	11	21.4%	14 (T)
Philadelphia County, PA	25.5%	17	14.6%	21	13.7%	22	37.4%	24	35.8%	24
Centre County, PA	18.6%	1	10.1%	7	6.8%	14(T)	11.4%	2	10.9%	1
Richland County, SC	22.8%	6(T)	9.8%	5	5.8%	9(T)	24.3%	16	25.5%	19
Horry County, SC	22.5%	5	15.2%	22	3.9%	2(T)	26.8%	19	19.6%	11
Brown County, SD	24.2%	10	16.0%	23	6.8%	14(T)	14.0%	6	14.3%	3
U.S.	25.8%	N/A	12.7%	N/A	13.8%	N/A	20.8%	N/A	18.7%	N/A
Knight Community Average	24.6%	N/A	13.0%	N/A	10.6%	N/A	23.1%	N/A	23.1%	N/A

Note: Youth and elderly population data for Long Beach, CA and Gary, IN are from 1990. Poverty data are based on ratios of city to county rates in 1990.
*(T) designates a tie with another Knight community that shares the same ranking.



Concerns about crime and her children's safety led Debbie Wilson to form a neighborhood watch group. Her initiative along with help from police and neighbors has helped transform her Saxon Street neighborhood in Tallahassee into a better place to live.

Chapter 3

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Why Knight Foundation Cares

The United States has the lowest voter participation level of any advanced democracy in the world. In many communities, Hispanic, African-American and young voters are especially unlikely to take part in the electoral process, thus contributing to their own disenfranchisement. When more citizens do participate for the first time, the complexities of our democratic systems can increase frustrations and cynicism, as evidenced by the 2000 presidential election. All of this weakens our democracy. The failure of U.S. citizens to exercise their right to vote is approaching crisis proportions. Roughly half of the voting-age population participates in presidential general elections, with congressional and local elections marked by even less participation. Our youngest adults are the least likely to participate.

Knight Foundation is committed to supporting active civic engagement. The Foundation strongly encourages local citizenship-building efforts and provides resources to local and national organizations that play a significant role in strengthening engagement in our 26 communities.

Since 1991, Kids Voting USA has been an effective proponent of positive civic engagement. The organization reaches some 5 million students and 200,000 teachers in 6,000 schools. Knight Foundation has continued its decade of support for this national organization. A recent $200,442 grant supports online teacher training and communications programs, development of service-learning projects and assistance for Kids Voting affiliates on such projects as Presidential Debate Watch.

Locally, Kids Voting affiliates in the St. Paul area and in Jackson and Hancock counties, Miss., are expanding the program within our communities. Taking a lead from our founders, we believe a strong democracy depends on the involvement of its citizens, and voting represents the most basic civic responsibility. By engaging youngsters in the electoral process from an early age, our goal is to regain our nation's commitment to participatory democracy.

Voting, of course, is just part of the picture. An effective democratic society requires quite a bit more – the involvement of its citizens in shaping public policy, setting community priorities, developing strategies and providing the necessary resources to effect change. As a large private foundation, Knight provides substantial resources. But viewed against the massive scope of our communities' challenges, even our significant financial resources can seem small.

Aberdeen, S.D. (Brown County)
Akron, Ohio (Summit County)
Biloxi, Miss. (Harrison County)
Boca Raton, Fla. (Palm Beach County)
Boulder, Colo. (Boulder County)
Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee County)
Charlotte, N.C. (Mecklenburg County)
Columbia, S.C. (Richland County)
Columbus, Ga. (Muscogee County)
Detroit, Mich. (Wayne County)
Duluth, Minn. (St. Louis County)
Fort Wayne, Ind. (Allen County)
Gary, Ind. (Lake County)
Grand Forks, N.D. (Grand Forks County)
Lexington, Ky. (Fayette County)
Long Beach, Calif. (Los Angeles County)
Macon, Ga. (Bibb County)
Miami, Fla. (Miami-Dade County)
Milledgeville, Ga. (Baldwin County)
Myrtle Beach, S.C. (Horry County)
Philadelphia, Pa. (Philadelphia County)
St. Paul, Minn. (Ramsey County)
San Jose, Calif. (Santa Clara County)
State College, Pa. (Centre County)
Tallahassee, Fla. (Leon County)
Wichita, Kan. (Sedgwick County)

We believe a strong democracy depends on the involvement of its citizens.

Knight Foundation's commitment to civic engagement is based on our belief that a private foundation can make a difference with grants not only for direct project funding but also for efforts that encourage civic and philanthropic involvement on the part of others. By supporting efforts that take advantage of volunteer talent and inspire broad-based charitable giving, we can increase the impact of our grants.

For example, we recently made a $100,000 grant to Impact Online to help build a web site that promotes volunteer opportunities in the San Jose area. Founded in 1994, the organization uses the Internet to match volunteers nationwide with nonprofit organizations involved in a wide range of community services. Its VolunteerMatch web site receives 25,000 visitors each month and so far has matched more than 40,000 people with some 5,000 nonprofit organizations. Our grant will enable Impact Online to develop web pages specifically geared to the San Jose community.

Our support of the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia combines our commitment to the nation's cultural enrichment with the goal of educating visitors about the Constitution and encouraging citizens' active participation in the democratic process. And in Miami, a Knight grant to the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Florida helped launch the Bill of Rights Public Education Program, designed to engage youth and immigrants in American democracy.

One thing we learned from the Community Indicators project is that Knight Foundation's challenge in the area of citizenship involves more than connecting individuals to organizations. We must help citizens connect with one another. In 10 Knight communities, at least one in five adults reported that they do not know any of their close neighbors. The national figure is 17 percent.

Forming strong interpersonal connections is critical to improving the quality of life for citizens. Without these connections, parents cannot rely on a neighbor to help out with child care. They cannot join with others to clean up their streets. They do not benefit from relationships that might steer them to job opportunities. As we look to the future, by supporting efforts to improve civic engagement, Knight Foundation can help citizens strengthen the fabric of their neighborhoods.

Current Community Conditions: Civic Engagement

1) Citizenship

Voter Registration
Voter Turnout

Why This is Important: Participation in the electoral process through registration and voting is one measure of citizens' involvement in community life. Registering to vote is the first step in the voting process. But it may not represent as important a component of civic participation in states that make registration automatic. Voting in elections puts the franchise into practice and therefore represents a more important element of civic participation.

Indicators of Civic Engagement: Two indicators of civic participation are: (1) percent of the voting-age population registered to vote and (2) percent of the voting-age population voting in the general election.

Key Findings:

- In 1998, just over three-fourths (75.8 percent) of the voting-age population in the Knight communities were registered to vote. Voter registration ranged from a high of 97.2 percent in Boulder County to a low of 54 percent in Miami-Dade County.
- Communities with the lowest voter registration (under 60 percent) in 1998 included Miami-Dade, Baldwin, Los Angeles (home county of Long Beach) and Santa Clara counties.
- While voter registration averaged about three out of four adults, voter turnout in 1998 was less than half of voter registration. Only 37.1 percent of the voting-age population in the Knight communities turned out to vote in the 1998 general election.
- Voter turnout in the 1998 general election ranged from nearly three out of five voters (58.5 percent) in St. Louis and Ramsey counties to just over one in five voters (21.8 percent) in Harrison County. Turnout was over 50 percent in only four communities – St. Louis, Ramsey, Boulder and Brown counties.
- Voter turnout in the 1998 general election was less than one-third of the voting-age population in 10 Knight communities – Harrison, Miami-Dade, Centre, Philadelphia, Muscogee, Grand Forks, Baldwin, Los Angeles, Lake (home county of Gary) and Sedgwick counties.

- Voter turnout declined by an average of 1 percentage point in the Knight communities between 1994 and 1998 (from 38.1 percent to 37.1 percent). However, voter turnout did increase in nearly half the Knight communities. The largest increases in voter turnout were found in Fayette and Mecklenburg counties (11.3 and 9.1 percentage points, respectively). The largest decreases in voter turnout were found in Sedgwick and Brown counties (12.6 and 10.5 percentage points, respectively).

TABLE 11: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

Percent of the Voting-age Population Voting in General Election, 1998

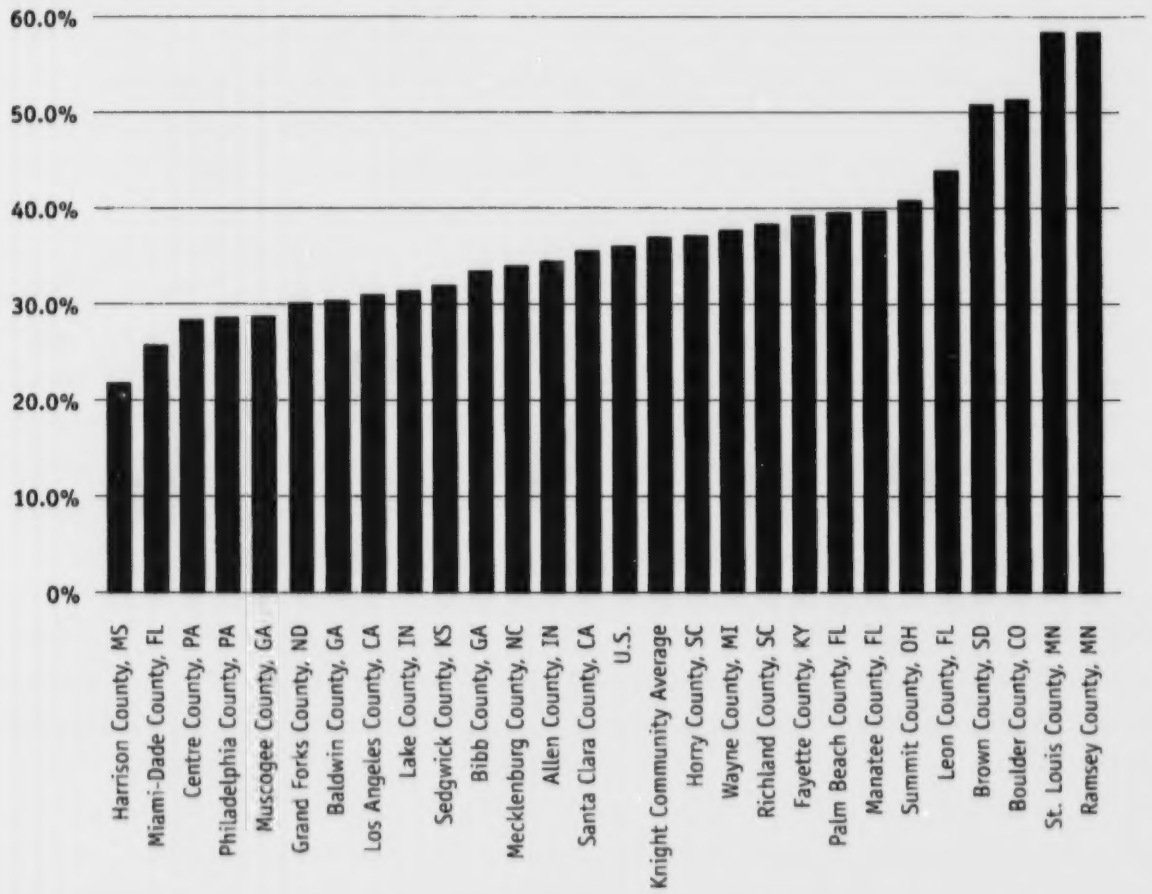


Table 12: Civic Engagement in Knight Communities

Community	1998 Voter Registration	Rank	1998 Voter Turnout	Rank (*)	1994 Voter Turnout	Rank (*)
Los Angeles County, CA	58.0%	23	31.0%	19	32.0%	18
Santa Clara County, CA	59.6%	22	35.7%	13	38.6%	11
Boulder County, CO	97.2%	1	51.4%	3	47.9%	4
Palm Beach County, FL	75.4%	15	39.7%	8	43.1%	10
Manatee County, FL	80.9%	11	39.9%	7	46.3%	5
Miami-Dade County, FL	54.0%	25	25.8%	25	28.2%	21
Leon County, FL	78.6%	13	44.0%	5	45.9%	6
Muscogee County, GA	63.9%	20	28.9%	22	23.8%	26
Bibb County, GA	66.1%	19	33.6%	16	33.4%	17
Baldwin County, GA	55.9%	24	30.4%	20	26.3%	24
Allen County, IN	83.6%	9	34.6%	14	38.1%	12
Lake County, IN	85.2%	6	31.4%	18	30.0%	20
Sedgwick County, KS	72.3%	17	32.0%	17	44.6%	7
Fayette County, KY	78.8%	12	39.4%	9	28.1%	22
Wayne County, MI	88.0%	3	37.9%	11	43.4%	9
St. Louis County, MN	87.0%	5	58.5%	1 (T)	56.7%	2
Ramsey County, MN	84.1%	8	58.5%	1 (T)	51.9%	3
Harrison County, MS	62.7%	21	21.8%	26	26.9%	23
Mecklenburg County, NC	87.3%	4	34.1%	15	25.0%	25
Grand Forks County, ND	N/A**	N/A**	30.2%	21	36.2%	13 (T)
Summit County, OH	84.6%	7	40.9%	6	44.2%	8
Philadelphia County, PA	89.6%	2	28.7%	23	35.5%	15
Centre County, PA	74.2%	16	28.5%	24	31.9%	19
Richland County, SC	70.5%	18	38.5%	10	36.2%	13 (T)
Horry County, SC	75.9%	14	37.2%	12	35.4%	16
Brown County, SD	82.0%	10	50.9%	4	61.4%	1
U.S.	75.5%	N/A	36.1%	N/A	39.8%	N/A
Knight Community Average	75.8%	N/A	37.1%	N/A	38.1%	N/A

*(T) designates a tie with another Knight community that shares the same ranking.
**Voters are not required to register in North Dakota.

Survey Findings

To solve problems, action from a single individual is often not enough. Others must get involved in order to mobilize local institutions, local public officials, civic groups, businesses and citizens who can contribute time, money, clout or other support.

To understand how this mobilization occurs within communities, it is important to understand the **civic engines**. These are the forces that drive people to get involved, to take risks, to improve their community. The Knight surveys identified the key factors that drive the problem-solving mechanisms in our cities. And the surveys examined some of the tangible actions that the civic engines produce, such as charitable giving and volunteerism. In addition, the surveys reveal some of the obstacles to local problem solving, including obstacles related to race relations in the community.

Perceptions of the Community

One starting point in each community is the question: "How do you feel about your community?" It is a big question, but one that yields valuable information. The charm of the big question is that it often serves as a proxy for many other attitudes and perceptions in a community.

At the start of a new century, Americans are generally quite content with their local communities. Nationwide, eight in 10 people (82 percent) give their community a positive rating as a place to live. That remarkably high total includes more than a third (36 percent) who rate their community an excellent place to live. Only 18 percent say their community is a fair or poor place to live.

Perceptions of the Community in Knight Communities

A number of Knight communities match or surpass that mark. In Duluth, Boulder and State College, nearly nine in 10 residents (88 percent) give high marks to their communities, with Tallahassee (86 percent) and Charlotte (84 percent) close behind.

But the picture is not all positive. In a number of Knight communities, the ratings are lower. In one case, there is a dramatic difference. Only 36 percent of the residents of Gary give their city high marks, the lowest of any Knight community.

The overall community rating generally summarizes how residents feel about several issues addressed specifically in the survey. Thus, communities where residents perceive a number of problems and

tend to be critical of local institutions, such as Gary, Philadelphia and Miami, also receive lower overall ratings.

By comparison, in areas such as Boulder, Duluth and State College where residents perceive very few problems and tend to be satisfied with local institutions, the overall community rating is notably higher than the national figure.

TABLE 13: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–RATING COMMUNITIES OVERALL

		Percent Who Give...	
Community	Area Surveyed	Positive Rating	Negative Rating
State College, PA	Centre County	89	11
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	88	11
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	88	12
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	87	13
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	87	13
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	85	14
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	84	15
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	84	16
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	84	16
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	83	17
Columbia, SC	Lexington/Richland	83	16
National		82	18
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	80	19
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	79	21
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	78	22
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	77	22
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	77	23
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	75	23
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	75	24
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	74	25
Akron, OH	Summit County	71	25
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	70	29
Macon, GA	Bibb County	70	28
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade and Broward	63	35
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	61	37
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	59	40
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	36	63

Influences on Ratings of the Local Community

The patterns of residents' views of their communities vary substantially among key demographic groups. Views also vary according to behaviors and related attitudes.

Young people are generally less satisfied with their communities than older residents. Nationally, 28 percent of those under age 30 have a negative opinion of their community, contrasted with only 15 percent of older residents.[1]

Income is also related to one's views, with higher incomes bringing more positive evaluations. For example, 53 percent of adults in households with annual incomes of $60,000 or more judge their community excellent nationally. Only 30 percent of those making less are similarly positive. And community perceptions vary by race and ethnicity. Nearly nine in 10 (87 percent) white residents have a positive take on their communities. That is far more positive than the views of African-Americans (65 percent positive-34 percent negative) and Hispanics (68 percent positive-32 percent negative).[2] City dwellers are less positive than those living elsewhere are. Only 28 percent of those in urban communities rate them as excellent, compared with 41 percent in the suburbs and 38 percent in rural areas.

Perceptions of Local Institutions

Americans think most local institutions in their communities are doing a good job, and are especially complimentary of the local fire department and the local public libraries. Fully nine in 10 people give their local fire department a positive rating. The public libraries also receive high ratings, with 79 percent of the public rating their performance excellent or good.

Table 14: Job Ratings for Community Services: The Nation

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
	%	%	%	%
Your local fire department	39	51	5	1
Your local public libraries	31	48	10	2
Your local police department	23	51	19	5
Your local public schools	19	44	22	7
Your city or town government	8	47	33	7

1 Throughout this report, differences are noted only if they meet the criterion of statistical significance at the 95 percent level of confidence.

2 In all mentions of racial and ethnic groups based on survey results, the groups are defined in the following standard ways: Hispanics are those of any race who identify themselves as Hispanic; whites are those who identify themselves as whites and not as Hispanics; and African-Americans are those who identify themselves as African-Americans and not as Hispanics.

Evaluations of other local institutions are more mixed. While a majority of residents (74 percent) say that the local police department is doing an excellent or a good job, about one-quarter of residents give the department's performance negative ratings.

Opinion is even more divided on the performance of the local public schools and the local government. While about six in 10 (63 percent) give the public schools positive marks, three in 10 (29 percent) rate the schools' performance negatively. (See section on Education). Local government receives a more critical evaluation, with fully four in 10 people (40 percent) saying that their city or town government is doing a fair or poor job serving the community. A total of 55 percent rate the local governments in a positive light.

Nationally, 90 percent of Americans rate their fire department's performance either excellent or good.

Perceptions of Local Institutions in Knight Communities

Across the Knight communities, there is little variance in the positive perceptions of the local fire departments and public libraries. Both institutions draw extraordinarily high positive ratings from local residents. Nationally, 90 percent of Americans rate their fire department's performance either excellent or good – a number that is simply not seen in job ratings of any institutions, public or private. And the ratings are consistent across the communities, with only small variance. Even in communities where citizens see big problems – such as Gary (83 percent) and Philadelphia (90 percent) – the fire departments are still highly rated.

But there is substantially more variance in the perceptions of the local police and, in particular, in the perceptions of the city or town government. Police departments generally receive high marks, with nearly three-quarters of the country (74 percent) rating their local department as doing an excellent or good job. Given the criticism that is often directed at the police, it is notable that a strong majority of Americans see them as doing their job well. There are variations among demographic groups in perceptions of the police performance, but even those variations are not as great at the national level as one might guess (See Influences on Perceptions of Local Institutions, page 51).

The difference in local government perception is particularly interesting, since it is not related in a simple way to the number of problems in a city. It is, rather, an independent perception in many communities that the local government simply is not working well – even if the key pieces of the local government such as fire, police and schools are rated positively by residents. For example, residents of State College and Charlotte are quite pleased with their communities but not with their local governments.

TABLE 15: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–
JOB PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

		Percent Who Give...	
City	County	Positive Rating	Negative Rating
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey	82	16
Duluth, MN	St. Louis	81	16
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach	78	20
Bradenton, FL	Manatee	78	18
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg	78	20
Lexington, KY	Fayette	78	19
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara	78	19
Miami, FL	Broward	77	20
Columbia, SC	Lexington/Richland	75	23
Tallahassee, FL	Leon	75	24
Aberdeen, SD	Brown	74	24
Biloxi, MS	Harrison	74	24
Columbus, GA	Muscogee	74	23
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks	74	22
National		74	24
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick	74	23
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	73	24
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry	73	24
Akron, OH	Summit	72	27
State College, PA	Centre	72	24
Boulder, CO	Boulder	70	27
Miami-Dade, FL	Miami-Dade	69	27
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen	67	31
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin	67	31
Macon, GA	Bibb	65	32
Detroit, MI	Wayne	66	32
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia	61	37
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	49	49

The patterns of residents' views of local institutions vary substantially, sometimes in ways that might not be expected.

Thinking about the local police departments, women are more likely than men to have positive views (77 percent vs. 70 percent), an interesting finding since women are more likely than men to express concerns about safety. And those with at least some college education are more positive than those without it (79 percent vs. 69 percent).

Table 16: Knight Communities and the Nation–Job Performance Ratings of City/Town Government

		Percent Who Give...	
City	County	Positive Rating	Negative Rating
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey	64	32
Boulder, CO	Boulder	63	33
Columbus, GA	Muscogee	63	31
Akron, OH	Summit	61	35
Duluth, MN	St. Louis	61	34
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara	60	32
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach	78	20
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	58	35
Aberdeen, SD	Brown	56	40
Biloxi, MS	Harrison	56	40
Miami, FL	Broward	56	36
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick	56	39
National		55	40
State College, PA	Centre	55	37
Tallahassee, FL	Leon	55	40
Bradenton, FL	Manatee	54	35
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen	54	40
Lexington, KY	Fayette	54	41
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg	53	42
Columbia, SC	Lexington/Richland	51	43
Detroit, MI	Wayne	46	49
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin	44	49
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia	61	37
Miami-Dade, FL	Miami-Dade	44	49
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	42	52
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks	42	53
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry	42	50
Macon, GA	Bibb	41	55

TABLE 17: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–PERSONAL FEELINGS OF EFFICACY

City	County	*Percent Who Say They Can Have A...* Big Impact	Moderate Impact	Small/No Impact
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	43	30	22
Detroit, MI	Wayne	37	39	21
Duluth, MN	St. Louis	36	45	15
Columbia, SC	Lexington/Richland	36	44	18
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey	35	42	21
Biloxi, MS	Harrison	35	40	24
Columbus, GA	Muscogee	35	37	24
Boulder, CO	Boulder	34	46	18
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg	34	41	23
Miami, FL	Broward	34	39	22
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin	33	41	23
Lexington, KY	Fayette	32	44	22
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	32	42	24
Tallahassee, FL	Leon	31	45	21
Aberdeen, SD	Brown	31	44	22
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach	31	40	23
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry	30	44	22
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia	30	43	26
Macon, GA	Bibb	30	41	26
Bradenton, FL	Manatee	30	40	28
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara	30	40	27
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick	29	43	26
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen	29	40	27
Miami-Dade, FL	Miami-Dade	29	35	28
National		28	46	25
Akron, OH	Summit	28	42	28
State College, PA	Centre	27	50	22
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks	21	43	29

But younger residents are less positive than older ones. Those under age 30 give the police only a 65 percent positive rating, while 76 percent of those age 30 and older rate the police highly. There are differences in perceptions of the police by race, but the difference is not as large as one might expect. A majority of whites, blacks and Hispanics all rate police positively. But African-Americans are less positive than whites (59 percent vs. 77 percent), while Hispanics fall in the middle with a 65 percent positive rating.

In contrast, the ratings of local city and town governments are simply lower across the board and across all groups. With the exception of differences based on race, there are few major gaps among groups as they think about the local governments. African-Americans are split in thinking about the government, with 44 percent giving positive marks and 49 percent giving negative marks. Hispanic residents are split as well, with 52 percent giving positive ratings and 43 percent negative ones. On the whole, white residents are more positive, with 57 percent providing positive ratings and 38 percent negative ratings.

Having an Impact, Volunteering and Going to Church

Another key issue is whether the citizens of a community feel like they can have an influence on their community or whether they feel powerless in the face of forces they cannot control. A sense of personal efficacy lays the foundation for activism that can change the community.

This sense of one's ability to have an impact on the community is directly related to being involved in the community through volunteering, charitable giving and links to neighbors.

One of the most surprising findings from the Knight surveys is that Americans have a strong sense that they can have an impact on their community. In Knight communities, personal efficacy tends to be even higher. Nationally, 74 percent say that they think they can have an impact on making their community a better place to live, including 28 percent who think they can have a big impact. Only 25 percent say they feel they can have little or no impact on their community.

Influences on Feelings of Personal Efficacy

Education plays a major role in the perception of personal efficacy. Simply put, the greater the education, the greater the belief that one can have an impact on the community. For example, only 13 percent of those who did not graduate from high school think they can have a big impact on their community. But 35 percent of college graduates believe they can.

Likewise, annual income makes a similar difference. About one in five of those in households earning less than $20,000 a year (22 percent) say they can have a big impact. But 35 percent of those in households making more than $60,000 take that position. Age has an interesting relationship with personal efficacy. The young and the old (those under age 30 and those 65 and older) are less likely to say they can have a big impact than those in the middle group (23 percent vs. 31 percent vs. 22 percent).

Given those patterns, it might be surprising that African-Americans express the strongest feelings of personal efficacy. Thirty-five percent of black Americans say they can have a big impact, versus only 26 percent for white Americans. And this pattern is reflected in Knight communities. In Gary, with a heavily African-American population that sees many, many problems, 43 percent of the residents say they can have a big impact. And in Detroit, another community with many black residents who see a large number of problems in their community, 37 percent say they can have a big impact.

Volunteering

Americans are remarkably willing to volunteer their time and effort for their communities. A strong majority of Americans (62 percent) volunteered in the year preceding the interview for at least one type of organization asked about in the survey. This included volunteering to work with children, the poor, the elderly or the homeless; in educational programs; with arts and cultural activities; and with a neighborhood or civic group.

Table 18: Volunteering for Specific Causes: The Nation

	Percent Who Volunteered	Percent Who Did Not
A program that helps poor, elderly or homeless people	31	69
A youth development program such as a day care center, scouts or little league	29	71
A neighborhood or civic group such as a block association or neighborhood watch	26	73
A tutoring or other educational program such as an after-school program or Sunday school class	26	74
An arts or cultural group, such as a museum, theater or music group	14	86

Influences on Volunteering

Nationally, patterns of volunteering vary by specific causes. (The influences on volunteering for education organizations and for cultural groups are discussed in subsequent chapters.) In general, age, education and personal efficacy are predictors. For example, volunteering is reported by about two-thirds of Americans under age 65, but only about half of those age 65 and over. Among those who have attended college, 71 percent report volunteering, versus only 53 percent of those who have never attended college.

A sense of personal efficacy – that you can have an impact – is directly related to volunteer activity. Believing you can have an impact is associated with taking action. Among those who say they can have a big impact, three-quarters (76 percent) report volunteering.

Two other factors are clearly related to volunteering: being a parent and attending worship services. Sixty-eight percent of parents report volunteering, compared with 59 percent of those without a child under 18 living at home. Not surprisingly, this difference is rooted in volunteering for child-related activities – youth development and education programs. The relationship between church attendance and volunteering is dramatic: 71 percent of those who attend worship services at least once a month report volunteering, contrasted with only 50 percent of those who do not.

Volunteering in Knight Communities

Across the Knight communities, the overall level of volunteering varies, from a high of 70 percent in Columbia and Tallahassee to a low of 57 percent in Akron.

In Columbia, 38 percent of residents report volunteering with organizations that help poor, elderly or homeless people – tops in any Knight community. Thirty-six percent in Tallahassee say they volunteered for an educational program, sharing the top spot with residents of Gary. At the other end of the scale, Akron adults report uniformly lower rates of volunteering across the types of organizations included in the survey.

Table 19: Efficacy Drives Volunteering: The Nation

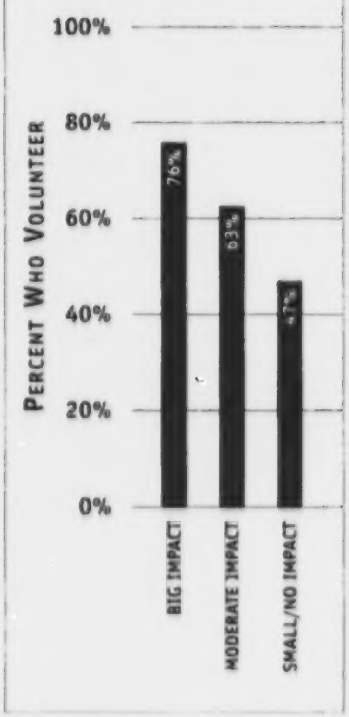


TABLE 20: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION – OVERALL VOLUNTEERISM

Community Area Surveyed	County	*Percent Who Volunteered for at Least One Type of Organization in the Past Year*
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	70
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	70
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	69
Macon, GA	Bibb County	68
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	67
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	66
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	65
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	64
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	64
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	64
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	64
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	63
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	63
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	62
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	62
National		62
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	62
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	60
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	60
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	60
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	59
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	59
State College, PA	Centre County	59
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	58
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	58
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	58
Akron, OH	Summit County	57

Charitable Giving

Just as Americans are willing to give of their time, they are also willing to give financial support to what they see as worthy causes. More than nine in 10 people (92 percent) contributed at least small amounts of money or personal belongings to some type of organization in 1998.

Even if contributions to churches, synagogues and other religious organizations – the largest single category – are excluded, 82 percent of people made a donation to a community group in that year.

Across the Knight communities, there is little overall variation in the total giving figures, both including and excluding contributions to religious organizations. But there are substantial differences by contribution category.

For example, Aberdeen and Gary top the charts on religious giving, with 84 percent and 83 percent, respectively. Aberdeen is also the leader in reported giving to youth development programs, with 58 percent of the residents reporting such behavior. For contributions to educational institutions, Milledgeville ranks first, with 57 percent reporting such giving; 56 percent do so in Tallahassee. In terms of contributions to arts or cultural organizations, Boulder leads the list with 26 percent.

With the backdrop of these high levels of charitable giving, Americans are not satisfied that wealthy Americans and local businesses are doing their share to support efforts to improve the community. Only 36 percent of adults nationwide say that wealthy people living in their area contribute as much as they should. Forty-two percent say the wealthy should contribute more. Americans are slightly more positive about businesses contributions: 45 percent say they do as much as they should, while 44 percent say business should do more.

Influences on Charitable Giving

As is true for volunteering, there are varying patterns of giving for specific causes. (The influences on giving to education organizations and for groups contributing to cultural vitality are discussed in the sections on those topics.) Giving, for example, increases generally with age. There are exceptions. Giving to educational institutions increases with age, but then tails off after age 65.

As one might expect, a sense of personal efficacy – feeling that you can have an impact – is directly related to charitable giving. The greater the sense of efficacy, the more likely adults are to report a contribution. There is only a small gap in giving rates to churches by efficacy (75 percent of those who say big impact vs. 65 percent of those who say little or no impact). But in terms of giving to education, 56 percent of those who say they can have a big impact do so, versus only 31 percent of those who do not feel so powerful.

Regular Attendance at Worship Services

Religious institutions of all types play a major role in the lives of most Americans. Nationwide, 56 percent of people say they attend religious worship services at least once a month.

Across Knight communities, there is substantial variation in attendance at worship services, more so than with other attitudes and behaviors in the surveys. Macon and Aberdeen share the top spot, with fully seven in 10 reporting at least monthly attendance in each community. Boulder (42 percent) and San Jose (47 percent) are at the opposite end of the continuum.

To some extent, variations in church attendance patterns are a function of race, since African-Americans are more likely to report at least monthly church attendance (69 percent), as compared with white Americans (53 percent) or Hispanics (61 percent). However, that simple explanation does not fit all the Knight communities. In Aberdeen, Macon, Columbia and Fort Wayne, white church attendance is similar to that of African-American residents.

TABLE 21: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION – OVERALL CHARITABLE GIVING

Community Area Surveyed		*Percent Who Gave Money or Personal Belongings to at Least One Type of Organization in 1998*
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	94
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	93
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	93
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	92
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	92
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	92
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	92
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	92
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	92
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	91
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	91
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	91
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	91
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	91
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	90
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	90
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	90
Macon, GA	Bibb County	90
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	90
National		90
Akron, OH	Summit County	89
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	89
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	89
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	88
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	88
State College, PA	Centre County	87
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	86

TABLE 22: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION – WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

Community	Area Surveyed	*Percent Who Attend Worship Services At Least Once A Month*
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	72
Macon, GA	Bibb County	70
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	69
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	67
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	67
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	66
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	64
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	63
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	61
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	60
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	58
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	57
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	57
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	57
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	56
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	56
National		56
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	55
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	55
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	54
Akron, OH	Summit County	52
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	52
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	52
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	51
State College, PA	Centre County	50
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	47
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	42

Patterns Across the Civic Engines

The civic engines identified in these surveys are not simple structures. They are complex aspects of community which vary from one place to the next, depending on the composition of the community, the problems each faces and the resources available to deal with those problems.

A sense of personal efficacy, a willingness to contribute time and money and involvement in a religious organization are all strong design features of these civic engines. Interestingly, these key attributes are not directly related to the number of problems that the residents see in their community. There are no significant correlations between the number of problems perceived and the sense of personal efficacy, levels of volunteering or levels of charitable giving. There is, however, a strong link between the number of problems and the overall judgment of the community.

Looking across Knight communities, there are no simple patterns. Residents of Gary have a very high sense of efficacy, with 43 percent saying they can have a big impact. Levels of volunteerism and charitable giving overall are strong. And Gary is a community where residents see many problems and give the community poor ratings. Contrast that with Columbia, S.C., where the patterns are somewhat similar: perhaps not as strong a sense of efficacy, but strong patterns of volunteerism and giving. But Columbia residents see far fewer problems and rate their community highly. This information is most valuable for helping stakeholders deepen their knowledge of conditions with their own community. Because each community is its own special case, explanations that fit one community may not fit another.

Attitudes About Race/Ethnicity

The reality of everyday life in America varies by race. From the overall perception of the community as a place to live to feelings of safety to the belief that one could improve one's community, there are differences in perceptions for white Americans and members of minority groups.

Despite these differences in experiences and beliefs, relatively low shares of Americans report overt racial tension. About one in eight Americans (12 percent) say that "tensions between different racial and ethnic groups" are a big problem in their community. About a third (32 percent) see the tensions as a small problem. But fully half (52 percent) say that racial tensions are not a problem in their community.

On this question, there are moderate differences between racial groups. Overall, 43 percent of white Americans see racial tension as a problem of some dimension and 55 percent do not. But African-Americans divide in the other direction: 53 percent see tensions as a problem and 44 percent do not. And Hispanics are almost precisely divided: 49 percent say racial tensions are a problem and 48 percent say they are not.

After decades of struggle in the civil rights movement, most Americans believe that racial or ethnic diversity is beneficial for their local community. About seven in 10 (69 percent) say that racial and ethnic diversity strengthens their community because different experiences and views help when trying to solve problems. Only 19 percent say diversity burdens the community because it makes it harder to get things done. On this question, there are no differences in the opinions of the three groups.

But diversity takes a backseat to proximity when it involves busing children a far distance from their homes. Two-thirds of Americans say that it is more important that children attend school near their homes, even if it means that most of the students in the school are of the same race. Only 28 percent support the view that racial diversity in the schools is important enough to send students some distance from their homes.

Opinions about school busing sharply divide along racial lines. White Americans favor neighborhood schools by a 71 percent to 22 percent margin. African-Americans favor busing to support racial diversity by a 52 percent to 39 percent edge. Hispanics are split, with 53 percent supporting neighborhood schools and 41 percent favoring busing.

In this mix, Americans remain optimistic about race relations in the future. While six in 10 report that they think race relations in their local community will stay about the same, 25 percent speculate that things will get better in the next five years or so. Only 11 percent say they think race relations will get worse where they live.

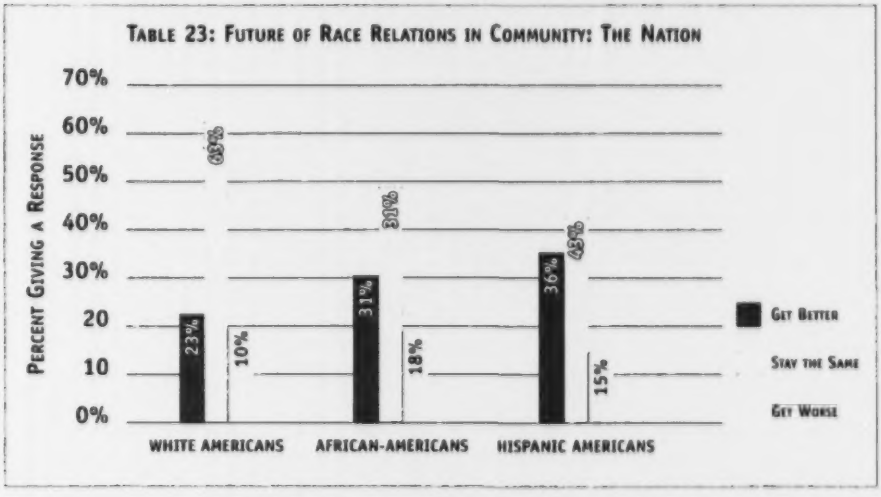
The most common view is for little change in local race relations, but all three groups lean toward the possibility of positive change over the next five years. African-Americans are slightly more likely than white Americans to fear a deterioration in race relations, while Hispanics are more likely than whites to expect improvement.

Connecting Citizens with One Another

Civic engagement is not defined only as individuals' links to institutions and organizations. The links between people are the basic building blocks to civic life. These essential person-to-person associations are the foundation for improving the quality of life in a community. These links vary across the nation and across the Knight communities.

Nationally, just over one-third of Americans (35 percent) say they know the names of all of their close neighbors. A total of 46 percent say they know some of their neighbors and 17 percent say they know *none* of their neighbors.

On this measure, the Knight communities seem to be slightly less connected than the nation at large. Only one community – Duluth at 45 percent – reports significantly more residents who know all their neighbors than the nation. But there are several – Miami, San Jose, Philadelphia and Lexington – where significantly fewer residents say they know all their neighbors.[3]



3 The "know your neighbors" question was not included in the survey in the five pilot communities for the project: Milledgeville, Long Beach, Gary, Boulder and Boca Raton.

TABLE 24: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–CONNECTION WITH NEIGHBORS

Community	County	*Percent Who Say They Know...* All of Their Neighbors	Only some Neighbors	None of Their Neighbors
Duluth, MN	St. Louis	45	40	14
Aberdeen, SD	Brown	40	47	13
State College, PA	Centre	40	41	19
Biloxi, MS	Harrison	38	44	17
Columbia, SC	Lexington/Richland	36	46	17
National		36	46	17
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks	36	41	23
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen	35	49	25
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry	35	47	17
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick	35	46	19
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey	31	57	12
Tallahassee, FL	Leon	31	51	19
Macon, GA	Bibb	30	51	18
Akron, OH	Summit	30	50	20
Bradenton, FL	Manatee	30	50	20
Detroit, MI	Wayne	30	49	20
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg	28	51	21
Columbus, GA	Muscogee	26	51	23
Lexington, KY	Fayette	25	54	20
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia	24	55	21
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara	21	58	20
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward	21	54	25
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach	NA	NA	NA
Boulder, CO	Boulder	NA	NA	NA
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	NA	NA	NA
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	NA	NA	NA
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	NA	NA	NA

Influences on Citizen Connection and Isolation

Knowing your neighbors reflects many aspects of daily life, from the structure and logistics of how many people are actually your neighbors to the barriers that can arise from differences in background and perceptions.

For example, age is a major factor in this measure of links to the community: young people are less connected, older residents more so. Only 22 percent of those under age 30 say they know all their neighbors, compared with 40 percent of those 30 and older.

Likewise, 35 percent of the young people know none of their neighbors, contrasting with only 13 percent of the older group. A portion of this difference is certainly linked to the fact that young people are more likely to move frequently and to be involved in living arrangements that are more fluid.

Conventional wisdom holds that rural folks know their neighbors better than city folks. This may well be true. Half of those in rural areas (50 percent) say they know all their neighbors, versus only 27 percent in the cities and 36 percent in the suburbs. And rural residents (11 percent) are half as likely as urban residents (22 percent) to know none of their neighbors.

Race and ethnicity also play a role in this level of linkage. White Americans are far more likely to say they know all their neighbors (40 percent) than African-Americans (22 percent) or Hispanics (24 percent). Conversely, only 13 percent of white Americans know none of their neighbors, while nearly a third of African-Americans (33 percent) and of Hispanics (34 percent) say this is the case.

In an effort to help her children get the education she missed out on, 24-year-old mother of five Tammy Jones studies to overcome her illiteracy at Baldwin County's Adult Education Center. In Milledgeville, 40 percent of adults are at a low level of literacy.

Chapter 4

EDUCATION

Why Knight Foundation Cares

Aberdeen, S.D. (Brown County)
Akron, Ohio (Summit County)
Biloxi, Miss. (Harrison County)
Boca Raton, Fla. (Palm Beach County)
Boulder, Colo. (Boulder County)
Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee County)
Charlotte, N.C. (Mecklenburg County)
Columbia, S.C. (Richland County)
Columbus, Ga. (Muscogee County)
Detroit, Mich. (Wayne County)
Duluth, Minn. (St. Louis County)
Fort Wayne, Ind. (Allen County)
Gary, Ind. (Lake County)
Grand Forks, N.D. (Grand Forks County)
Lexington, Ky. (Fayette County)
Long Beach, Calif. (Los Angeles County)
Macon, Ga. (Bibb County)
Miami, Fla. (Miami-Dade County)
Milledgeville, Ga. (Baldwin County)
Myrtle Beach, S.C. (Horry County)
Philadelphia, Pa. (Philadelphia County)
St. Paul, Minn. (Ramsey County)
San Jose, Calif. (Santa Clara County)
State College, Pa. (Centre County)
Tallahassee, Fla. (Leon County)
Wichita, Kan. (Sedgwick County)

The Knight brothers were educated men with a clear commitment to learning. They demonstrated this commitment through their personal philanthropy as well as through their Foundation's efforts to improve communities.

Our support acknowledges that education is about more than what goes on within schoolhouse doors. Parents, for instance, must be a child's first teacher. Likewise, after-school activities, access to libraries and other community resources, and a culture that values and rewards knowledge are critical to ensure quality education.

The Foundation supports significant programs that have shown promise over time, growing from one-school projects to regional or national models. Support for the Galef Institute of Los Angeles and its innovative Different Ways of Knowing (DWoK) reform model, for example, began with a pilot project in California. Over the past decade, several grants have helped Galef serve teachers in Knight communities and around the nation, smoothing the way for teachers to understand and adopt statewide reform.

We believe reading is a priority for the youngest students, and much of our work has supported innovative ways to improve reading in the early grades. We helped develop the Read, Write & Type computer software that blends phonetic and whole-language instruction and teaches computer keyboarding skills to young children. The innovative approach has helped the Los Altos School District rise to the top of California's statewide assessment of fourth-grade reading.

In addition to education and communities, the Knight brothers, of course, were committed to strengthening the practice of journalism. Honoring those values, we have made substantial investments to help entire families learn to read. Over the past decade, through support to the National Center for Family Literacy and others, Knight has emphasized family literacy through programs that teach parents and children together in order to break a cycle of poverty rooted in illiteracy.

One thing we learned from the Community Indicators project is that many communities are still struggling to extend basic literacy skills to all adults. In communities such as Gary, Miami, Philadelphia, Macon, Milledgeville and Detroit, estimates put 30 percent or more of adults at levels of functional illiteracy. This means economic success remains out of reach for a substantial share of Americans. As we look to the future, we can help citizens use reading as a key to unlock economic opportunities to improve their lives.

Current Community Conditions: Education

Indicators For Education:

1) School Environment

- Student Racial/Ethnic Composition
- Free and Reduced Price Lunch Eligibility
- Private School Enrollment

2) Financial and Human Resources

- Student to Teacher Ratio
- Teachers with Advanced Degrees
- Average Teacher Salary

3) Student Achievements and System Outcomes

- Performance on State Standardized Test of 3rd Grade Reading
- Performance on Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
- Dropout Rate

4) Community

- Adult Literacy Estimate
- Public Library Usage
- Newspaper Circulation per Capita

Why This is Important: Education is a key indicator area for several aspects of community health. A good education system prepares children and youth to join the workforce and contribute to their community and society. Good education systems also provide programs tailored to specific needs of children in the community through special programs.

Highlights

The Knight communities differ greatly in their education characteristics. Some communities have relatively high test scores, low dropout rates and high levels of adult literacy compared to each other and to U.S. averages. Other communities, in contrast, experience below-average results in these areas.

- Five Knight school districts–the State College Area School District, Boulder Valley School District, Grand Forks Public School District, Leon County School District and Aberdeen Public Schools – consistently rank relatively high on indicators of student outcomes and adult literacy, and low on free and reduced price school lunch participation.[1]
- Five Knight districts – the Fayette County Schools, San Jose Unified School District, Duluth Public Schools, Manatee County School District and Fort Wayne Community Schools – are similar to the first tier of districts except that in all of this second grouping of districts, free and reduced price lunch participation is above the U.S. average.
- Five Knight districts – the Palm Beach County School District, Biloxi Public Schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District, Horry County School District and Wichita Public Schools – have SAT scores that are below the U.S. average, and free and reduced price lunch participation above the U.S. average. Other indicator results are mixed.
- Five Knight districts – the Long Beach Unified School District, Akron City School District, Muscogee County Schools, Baldwin County Schools and Richland County School District #1 – show primarily high free and reduced price lunch participation, low levels of adult literacy, low third-grade and SAT scores, and high dropout rates.
- The six remaining Knight districts – the Gary Community School Corporation, Bibb County Schools, St. Paul Public Schools, Detroit Public Schools, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Philadelphia City School District – rank low across indicators of student outcomes and adult literacy, and high on free and reduced lunch participation and dropout rates.

1 Some communities are supported by a single countywide school district while other communities have access to multiple school districts. In the later cases, only the primary school district serving the major city of the community area is included in the indicator figures.

TABLE 25: QUINTILE RANKING OF KNIGHT COMMUNITIES ON SELECTED EDUCATION MEASURES

School Districts	1998-99 Percent of Students Participating in Free & Reduced Price Lunch	1998-99 Ratio of District to State Average State Standardized Third-Grade Reading Test Scores	1998-99 SAT Composite Test Scores	1997-98 Ratio of District to State Dropout Rate	Overall Quintile Ranking
Aberdeen School District, SD	1	2	3	2	1
Akron City School District, OH	2	5		4	4
Baldwin County Schools, GA	4	2	4	4	4
Bibb County Schools, GA	5	3	4	4	5
Biloxi Public Schools, MS	4	1	4	1	3
Boulder Valley School District, CO	1	1	1	2	1
Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District, NC	2	3	3	4	3
Detroit Public Schools, MI	5	5		5	5
Duluth Public Schools, MN	2	2	1	4	2
Fayette County Schools, KY	2	1	2	3	2
Fort Wayne Community Schools, IN	2	4	3	1	2
Gary Community School Corp., IN	4	4	5	3	5
Grand Forks Public School District, ND	1	2	2		1
Horry County School District, SC	3	3	3	3	3
Leon County School District, FL	1	1	1	2	1
Long Beach Unified School District, CA	5	5	3	3	4
Manatee County School District, FL	3	2	2	2	2
Miami-Dade County School District, FL	5	5	4	5	5
Muscogee County Schools, GA	4	4	4	1	4
Palm Beach County School District, FL	3	3	2	2	3
Philadelphia City School District, PA	5	5	5	5	5
Richland County School District #1, SC	4	4	5	3	4
San Jose Unified School District, CA	3	3	1	1	2
St. Paul Public Schools, MN	5	5		5	5
State College Area School District, PA	1	1	1	1	1
Wichita Public Schools, KS	3	4	2	5	3

School Environment

Why This is Important: The school environment has important implications for the type and quality of education available to children within a community. Communities serving children from socioeconomically diverse backgrounds encounter unique challenges in meeting the academic needs of all children. Background characteristics that may be associated with low academic achievement need to be addressed within a diverse range of educational programs.

Key Findings:

- Of the 26 Knight communities, 18 had a minority enrollment higher than the U.S. average of 34.8 percent.
- On average, about 45-50 percent of students in Knight community school districts participated in free and reduced price school lunch programs. This figure was approximately 16 percent higher than the U.S. average of 29.2 percent.
- On average, 13.1 percent of children in Knight community school districts were enrolled in private schools. This compared to the U.S. average of 8.9 percent.
- School districts with the highest enrollment in private schools (above 20 percent) included Bibb County, St. Paul, Fort Wayne, Philadelphia and San Jose, which may reflect two things: (1) community perception of the quality of available public education, and (2) the economic ability of community residents to make a choice between private and public education.

Financial and Human Resources

Why This is Important: Student-teacher ratios are a commonly used measure of the amount of individualized instruction that teachers are able to provide for students. The percent of teachers who hold master's or advanced degrees provides some indication of the level of training and preparation that teachers have received relative to comparison groups. Finally, average teachers salaries are one important indicator of the investment that a school district has been willing and able to make in the members of its teaching force.

Key Findings:

- Student-teacher ratios in school districts in the Knight communities averaged 17.5 in 1997-98 – just above the U.S. average of 17.1. However, student-teacher ratios vary substantially – from a low of 13.6 in the Akron City School District to a high of 23.9 in the Long Beach Unified School District.
- School districts in Knight communities with the highest student-teacher ratios (above 20) include Long Beach, San Jose Unified and Detroit. School districts with the lowest ratios (below 15) include Akron, Richland County #1 and Horry County.
- The percent of teachers with a master's degree or an advanced degree in 1998-99 was 46 percent – about the same as the U.S. average – but the range across Knight communities was substantial. Over 78 percent of teachers in Fayette County had at least a master's degree, while only 29 percent had a master's or higher in Long Beach.
- Knight community school districts with a high proportion of teachers with at least a master's (above 60 percent) included Fayette, Gary, Fort Wayne, Akron and Muscogee counties. School districts with a low proportion of teachers with advanced degrees (under 32 percent) included Long Beach, Richland County #1, Horry and Aberdeen.
- The average teacher salary in the 23 Knight community school districts with available data was $37,696 – about 5 percent below the U.S. average of $39,347. The average teacher salary was highest in San Jose Unified ($47,483) and lowest in Aberdeen ($30,629).

Table 26: School Environment in Knight Communities

School Districts	1998-99* Percent Minority	1998-99** Percent Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program articipation
Gary Community School Corp., IN	99.0%	53.0%
Detroit Public Schools, MI	95.2%	67.6%
Miami-Dade County School District, FL	87.1%	58.7%
Philadelphia City School District, PA	81.6%	78.4%
Long Beach Unified School District, CA	81.1%	65.1%
Richland County School District #1, SC	78.3%	58.4%
Bibb County Schools, GA	69.6%	61.1%
San Jose Unified School District, CA	69.4%	43.5%
Muscogee County Schools, GA	63.6%	52.8%
St. Paul Public Schools, MN	62.6%	63.0%
Baldwin County Schools, GA	62.2%	53.2%
Akron City School District, OH	49.5%	36.3%
Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District, NC	49.5%	36.6%
Palm Beach County School District, FL	47.5%	39.8%
Wichita Public Schools, KS	44.1%	51.7%
Biloxi Public Schools, MS	43.6%	51.9%
Leon County School District, FL	42.8%	31.0%
Fort Wayne Community Schools, IN	32.9%	35.2%
Manatee County School District, FL	31.3%	41.2%
Horry County School District, SC	27.6%	50.4%
Fayette County Schools, KY	24.7%	34.0%
Boulder Valley School District, CO	17.8%	11.5%
State College Area School District, PA	11.5%	15.9%
Grand Forks Public School District, ND	11.1%	25.8%
Duluth Public Schools, MN	10.7%	31.8%
Aberdeen School District, SD	9.3%	21.5%
Knight Community Average	50.2%	45.5%
U.S. Average	34.8%	29.2%

*1997–1998 school year figures are used for Detroit Public Schools and Biloxi Public Schools.
**1997–98 school year figures are used for Long Beach USD, San Jose USD, Boulder Valley SD, Manatee County SD and Biloxi Public Schools.
(T) designates a tie with another Knight community that shares the same ranking.

Student Achievement and System Outcomes in Knight Communities

Why This is Important: The ability to read by the third grade has been identified as a crucial determinant of future academic success, and as such has been targeted within most state standardized tests as an area of great importance. Similarly, the increasing importance of post-high school education has led to close monitoring of performance on college entrance examinations such as the SAT. Finally, any measure of academic achievement becomes irrelevant for students who drop out of school, making dropout rates among the most-watched benchmarks of school performance.

Key Findings:

- School districts in the Knight communities vary greatly in their performance on state standardized tests of third-grade reading. School districts such as the Boulder Valley School District are performing well above their state average, while others such as the Philadelphia City School District are well below their respective state averages.
- School districts in the Knight communities with the highest third-grade reading scores relative to their respective states (Boulder Valley, State College and Leon County) are generally of medium size and located in areas with major state universities.
- Knight community school districts with the lowest third-grade reading scores (Philadelphia, St. Paul, Miami-Dade, Akron, Detroit and Long Beach) tend to be large, urban school districts that face other problems (e.g., high levels of student poverty) often correlated with low student achievement.
- School districts in Knight communities have a slightly lower average composite SAT score (974) than the United States as a whole (1,016). However, composite SAT scores vary substantially, ranging from a high of 1,122 in the Boulder Valley School District to a low of 787 in the Gary Community School Corporation.
- Knight school districts with the highest composite SAT scores (above 1,050) include Boulder Valley, State College and San Jose Unified. School districts with the lowest scores (below 925) include Gary, Philadelphia County, Richland County #1, Bibb County and Baldwin County.
- School dropout rates in Knight community school districts vary substantially relative to their respective states. School districts with the highest relative dropout rates (at least twice their state rate) include Detroit, Philadelphia, St. Paul and Wichita. School districts with the lowest relative dropout rates (below 60 percent of their state average) include the State College, San Jose Unified and Biloxi public schools.

Community Literacy in Knight Communities

Why This is Important: Adult literacy is an important indicator of many aspects of community well-being, including workforce skill levels. Newspaper circulation provides one measure of the extent to which a community gets information about world, national, and community news and events. Public library usage provides another indicator of community literacy by tracking usage of books and other library materials.

Key Findings:

- On average, about 22 percent of adults in Knight communities were at the lowest literacy level in 1990 (roughly the equivalent of functional illiteracy). The range in individual communities was from a low of 9 percent in Boulder County to a high of 46 percent in Gary.
- Communities with the highest proportion of adults at the lowest literacy level in 1990 (30 percent and above) were Gary and Miami-Dade, Philadelphia, Baldwin, Bibb and Wayne counties. Communities with the lowest proportion of adults at the lowest literacy level (below 14 percent) included Boulder, Grand Forks, Centre and Brown counties.
- Among the 25 public library districts in Knight communities (which included city, county and regional systems), the average number of circulation transactions per capita in 1996 was 7.6. The Boulder Public Library had the highest number of circulation transactions per capita, at 17.1, while the Detroit Public Library had the lowest number, at 1.6.
- Knight communities with the highest number of library transactions (more than 10 per capita) include Boulder, Duluth, Allen County and State College. Communities with the lowest number of transactions (under 4 per capita) include Detroit, Chattahoochee Valley (which includes Muscogee County, Ga.), Boca Raton and St. Paul.
- An average of 53.3 percent of all households in Knight communities were covered by combined daily newspaper circulation (including morning and evening editions) in 1999. This newspaper penetration was slightly lower than the U.S. figure of 55.6 percent. Boulder County had the highest percentage of households covered by daily newspaper circulation, at 82.1 percent, while Baldwin County had the lowest level of coverage at 19.3 percent.
- Knight communities with the highest levels of newspaper coverage (65 percent and above) included Gary and Boulder, Brown, Allen and Grand Forks counties. Those with the lowest levels of coverage (under 45 percent) included Long Beach and Baldwin, Wayne, Miami-Dade, Sedgwick and St. Louis counties.

TABLE 27: COMMUNITY LITERACY IN KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

Community	1990 Percent of Adults at Low Literacy Levels	Library District	1996 Total Library Circulation, per Capita
Gary, IN	46%	Boulder (city), CO	17.1
Miami-Dade County, FL	42%	Duluth, MN	15.5
Philadelphia County, PA	34%	Allen County, IN	13.6
Bibb County, GA	31%	State College, PA	11.5
Baldwin County, GA	31%	Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, NC	9.5
Wayne County, MI	30%	Richland County, SC	9.5
Long Beach, CA	28%	Grand Forks County, ND	9.4
Muscogee County, GA	28%	Harrison County, MS	8.9
Richland County, SC	26%	Middle Georgia Regional (including Bibb and Baldwin counties), GA	8.4
Harrison County, MS	23%	Middle Georgia Regional (including Bibb and Baldwin counties), GA	8.4
Palm Beach County, FL	22%	Myrtle Beach, SC	8.1
Manatee County, FL	22%	Lexington, KY	7.6
Mecklenburg County, NC	20%	Brown County, SD	7.6
Horry County, SC	20%	Leon County, FL	6.8
Santa Clara County, CA	19%	Summit County, OH	6.7
Leon County, FL	18%	San Jose, CA	6.0
Summit County, OH	18%	Long Beach, CA	5.8
Fayette County, KY	15%	Gary, IN	5.8
St. Louis County, MN	15%	Wichita, KS	5.7
Allen County, IN	14%	Miami-Dade County, FL	5.1
Sedgwick County, KS	14%	Manatee County, FL	4.9
Ramsey County, MN	14%	Philadelphia County, PA	4.4
Brown County, SD	13%	St. Paul, MN	3.6
Centre County, PA	12%	Boca Raton, FL	3.4
Grand Forks County, ND	10%	Chattahoochee Valley Regional (including Muscogee County), GA	3.1
Boulder County, CO	9%	Detroit, MI	1.6
Knight Community Average	22%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Average	22%	N/A	7.6

*Adult literacy levels are for the Knight Community.

Note: All indicators except adult literacy are school district level based on the major public school district for the community. Biloxi Public Schools are used for the Harrison County, MS.

Survey Findings

Perceptions of Local Public Schools

Public school systems across the nation are responsible for the education of most young Americans. Thus, public education forms a crucial piece of the foundation on which the nation's future is built. At the local level, a community's health can often be judged by the condition of its public schools, which serves as a barometer for the current well-being of its youth and a measure of certainty about its future. These surveys asked people to rate their local public schools and to assess the extent to which the quality of education provided by public schools is a problem in their local community. The surveys also explored public perceptions of illiteracy as a local problem.

Perceptions of Local Public Schools Nationally

A majority of the public rates the overall job performance of their local public schools as excellent (44 percent) or good (19 percent). Still, many people across the country are worried about their public schools. Three in 10 Americans say that public schools where they live do only a fair (22 percent) or a poor (7 percent) job serving the community. And while about half of the public (53 percent) reports that the quality of public school education is not a problem where they live, four in 10 people (39 percent) say that it is at least a small problem in their community.

As Table 28 shows, Americans are largely consistent in their views about public school education. A large majority of people who say the schools are doing an "excellent" job also say that the quality of public school education where they live is not a problem at all. A smaller majority who feel the schools are doing a "good" job also suggest that the quality of public education is not a problem.

However, about one-quarter of those who give this positive rating (28 percent) consider the quality of public education to be at least a small problem in their community. By comparison, those who rate the public schools as either fair or poor are far more likely than those who give the schools positive performance ratings to say that the quality of public education is a big problem in their community (40 percent vs. 4 percent), and far less likely than others to report that the condition of public education is not a problem where they live (18 percent vs. 73 percent).

TABLE 28: IS THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROVIDE A PROBLEM?: THE NATION

	Rating of Local Public Schools		
	Excellent Job	Good Job	Fair/Poor Job
The public schools do not provide quality education. Is this a big problem, a small problem or not a problem?	%	%	%
Big problem	2	5	40
Small problem	11	23	36
Not a problem	87	67	18

PERCEPTIONS OF LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

In addition to some stark contrasts with the national view, there is a great deal of variance in perception of public school education across the Knight communities.

For example, while nationally only 29 percent give their local public schools a negative performance rating, several Knight communities have substantially higher shares of residents who say that their local public schools do only a fair or a poor job. Fully half of the adults living in Philadelphia (52 percent) and Gary (50 percent) give their local public schools a negative rating, and at least four in 10 residents in Macon, Charlotte and Detroit do the same. Residents in Knight's South Florida communities and in Milledgeville also indicate a particularly negative view of their local public schools.

On the other hand, about three in four residents in Grand Forks, Duluth and State College say that their local public schools do an excellent or a good job serving their community. Nationwide, a markedly smaller majority (63 percent) gives positive ratings to local public schools.

**Table 29: Knight Communities and the Nation–
Job Performance Ratings of Local Public Schools**

Community	Area Surveyed	*Percent Who Give...* Positive Rating	Negative Rating
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	77	10
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	74	20
State College, PA	Centre County	72	16
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	68	24
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	67	25
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	65	20
National		63	29
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	61	31
Akron, OH	Summit County	60	32
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	59	27
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	58	29
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	58	34
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	58	32
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	56	31
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	55	34
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	54	38
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	51	29
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	51	34
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	51	34
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	50	32
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	49	43
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	47	37
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	46	44
Macon, GA	Bibb County	46	45
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	43	49
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	36	40
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	34	53

Residents' ratings of local public schools are largely differentiated by racial or ethnic diversity and by urban status. Specifically, residents living in diverse or urban areas such as Miami or Philadelphia are more likely to give negative reviews than those living in suburban areas or those with a less than 10 percent minority population, namely Grand Forks, Duluth and State College. But concern among residents of the Knight communities about the quality of public school education is more widespread and is evident in communities that differ in a number of ways, including size and region.

While 39 percent of people nationally say that the quality of public school education is at least a small problem, 18 of the 26 Knight communities show significantly higher shares of residents who express this view. There are especially high levels of concern in Gary, Philadelphia and Long Beach where at least six in 10 residents say that the quality of education is a problem. Moreover, in each of these communities, about one-third of the residents consider this issue a big problem.

Several other Knight communities have exceptionally high shares of residents who think the quality of public school education is a problem, including communities as disparate in nature as Detroit, San Jose and Milledgeville. Even Boulder and Bradenton, two communities that initially appear to be on par with the nation in this respect, have notably more residents who report that the quality of education is at least a small problem – that is, when the share of residents who do not give an opinion is taken into account.

There are, however, a few Knight communities at the other end of the spectrum. Seven in 10 Grand Forks residents report that the quality of education where they live is not a problem at all, as do about six in 10 residents of Aberdeen and State College. In comparison, 53 percent of the public nationwide say the quality of public education is not a problem in their local area.

TABLE 30: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–QUALITY OF LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION

Community	Area Surveyed	*Percent Who Say...* Big Problem	Small Problem	Not a Problem
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	34	26	26
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	32	36	26
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	31	30	26
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	30	26	32
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	29	21	39
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	28	26	27
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	28	26	30
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	27	29	33
Macon, GA	Bibb County	25	29	37
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	23	24	45
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	22	26	39
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	21	35	36
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	21	31	35
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	19	31	41
Akron, OH	Summit County	17	29	46
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	17	24	40
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	17	29	43
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	17	26	47
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	16	26	50
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	16	37	38
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	16	30	43
National		15	24	53
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	12	31	44
State College, PA	Centre County	9	23	58
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	7	29	59
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	7	30	58
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	4	17	69

Charter Schools

Among the many specific issues included in the debate about public school education is the idea of charter schools, or privately run schools funded wholly or in part with public money. While in some areas of the country the idea of charter schools has been high on the list of education issues, the issue is only beginning to emerge in other parts of the nation. When asked how much they have heard about charter schools in their local area, most Americans (53 percent) say they have heard nothing at all. And while 44 percent of the public reports hearing at least a little about this issue, that includes just one in 10 (11 percent) who say they have heard "a lot" about charter schools. By comparison, awareness of charter schools is much higher among residents in two Knight communities where such alternative schools have been seriously considered. Two-thirds of residents in both St. Paul (69 percent) and Duluth (66 percent) report hearing at least a little about charter schools in their local area. In Duluth that includes 20 percent who say that they have heard "a lot."

Awareness, however, does not appear to necessarily be a strong determinant of attitudes about this issue. When asked which statement comes closer to their own view – that charter schools are good for local education because they allow individual schools more flexibility to address student needs, or that charter schools are bad for local education because they use money that would otherwise go to the local public schools – 52 percent of the public nationwide says charter schools are good. Just one-quarter (27 percent) say that charter schools are bad for local education. The remainder either volunteer that neither statement is exactly right (4 percent) or say they do not know whether charter schools are good or bad for local education (17 percent).

When this question is asked in Duluth, local public opinion mirrors that of the nation: 52 percent say charter schools are good for local education because they allow individual schools more flexibility, while 27 percent believe charter schools are mostly bad for local education because they use money that would otherwise go to local public schools.

Perceptions of Illiteracy

The national survey reveals a fair amount of public concern about illiteracy. Overall, 48 percent of Americans say that illiteracy is a problem in the community where they live. However, many of these people characterize it as only a small problem, and four in 10 residents say it is not a problem at all.

TABLE 31: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–ILLITERACY IN THE LOCAL AREA

Community	Area Surveyed	*Percent Who Say...* Big Problem	Small Problem	Not a Problem	Est. Percent of Adults at Low Literacy Levels
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	36	30	26	28
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	33	35	23	46
Macon, GA	Bibb County	25	33	31	31
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	25	28	35	22
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	24	28	34	34
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	23	45	23	31
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	23	35	33	19
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward	21	27	38	42*
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	19	35	35	20
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	18	42	31	23
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	18	37	29	28
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	18	25	39	30
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	17	42	30	15
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland	15	35	39	26**
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	15	32	44	20
Akron, OH	Summit County	15	29	44	18
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	14	38	38	14
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	14	36	35	22
National		14	34	41	22
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	13	44	32	18
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	13	31	41	14
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	12	36	37	14
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	11	44	36	9
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	5	41	46	15
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	5	38	49	13
State College, PA	Centre County	5	38	48	12
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	3	33	52	10

* Literacy information for Miami-Dade County, FL only.
** Literacy information for Richland County, SC only.

Perceptions of Illiteracy in Knight Communities

The extent to which residents of Knight communities consider illiteracy a problem varies considerably from one city to the next. Local views are often at odds with the nation. On average, about 22 percent of adults in the Knight communities were at the lowest literacy level (the equivalent of functional illiteracy) according to 1990 estimates, a figure that mirrors the national average for that same year. But perception of illiteracy as a problem in many individual Knight communities is quite different from that perception nationwide.

Nearly half (48 percent) of the American public views illiteracy as at least a small problem in their local area, but that proportion increases to two-thirds in Long Beach, Gary and Milledgeville. Moreover, one-third of residents in Long Beach and Gary characterize this issue as a big problem, as do about one-quarter of those living in Miami-Dade County, Boca Raton, Macon, Philadelphia, Milledgevilie and San Jose. Nationally, only 14 percent consider illiteracy a major problem in their local community.

Concern about illiteracy among residents of these Knight communities is rational. Despite the parity between the national average and the average across Knight communities, the share of adults at the lowest literacy level is higher than average in several Knight communities. In addition, the communities in which levels of concern are the highest generally correspond to the counties in which the share of adults at the lowest literacy levels are highest. In Gary, for example, where 33 percent of residents say illiteracy is a big problem, estimates put more than four in 10 adults at the lowest literacy level in 1990. There is a similar pattern for Miami-Dade County, Philadelphia, Milledgeville and Macon.

As expected, Knight communities with a very small percentage of adults at the lowest literacy level generally have fewer residents who say illiteracy is a problem. Grand Forks is especially noteworthy. In this community where only a tenth of the adult population is at the lowest literacy level, 52 percent of residents say that illiteracy is not a problem at all, a figure markedly higher than the national figure of 41 percent.

There is less congruence in a few Knight communities. For instance, estimates put three in 10 adults in Detroit at the lowest level of literacy, but the share of Detroit residents who say that illiteracy is a big problem (18 percent) is only slightly higher than the national benchmark. As another example, Boca Raton and San Jose show about the average share of adults at the lowest literacy level, but both of these communities have larger shares of adults than is the case nationally who consider illiteracy a big problem.

While there actually may be a disconnect between public perception and the community reality regarding this issue, there are also several possible explanations for these seeming discrepancies. One is that public perception is simply ahead of recorded statistics. The available literacy rates are from 1990; literacy rates in Detroit may have improved, and the improvement has been noticed by the public. Similarly, both Boca Raton and San Jose have experienced a fair amount of population growth in recent years, a factor which often exacerbates existing social problems. It is possible that heightened concern about illiteracy may be a function of that growth. Another possible explanation is that residents in certain communities have different expectations or standards for basic literacy skills.

Influences on Perceptions of Local Public Schools and Illiteracy

At the national level, perceptions of local public schools and illiteracy are primarily influenced by race or ethnicity and community type. And in Knight communities that have significant minority populations – or that have a mix of urban, suburban and rural areas – these factors are generally important to the way people view issues related to local education.

African-American and Hispanic adults are generally more likely than white Americans to be dissatisfied with education in their community. For example, two-thirds of white Americans (66 percent) say that public schools in their local area are doing an excellent or a good job serving the community. That share decreases to 56 percent among Hispanics and to 49 percent among African-Americans. As another example, half of African-Americans and Hispanics (51 percent of each group) report that the quality of public school education is a problem where they live, but the same is true of just 36 percent of white Americans. And while these three racial or ethnic groups are equally likely to say that illiteracy is a problem, Hispanics and African-Americans are more likely than their white counterparts (28 percent and 19 percent vs. 11 percent, respectively) to consider this issue a *big* problem.

Community type also influences perceptions of public school education and illiteracy, but primarily among white Americans. For example, 37 percent of white Americans living in urban areas, compared with about one-quarter of those living in either a suburban (24 percent) or rural (23 percent) area, rate the job performance of their local public schools only fair or poor.

A similar pattern is evident with respect to the quality of public school education, with urban whites more likely than white Americans

living in nonurban areas to consider this issue a problem. There are, however, no significant differences across community types among African-Americans or among Hispanics regarding public school education. On the issue of illiteracy, more white Americans living in rural areas compared with those living in suburban areas (14 percent vs. 8 percent) say that this issue is a problem. And among African-Americans, those living in urban areas have a different point of view from their suburban counterparts: 26 percent versus 14 percent consider illiteracy a problem. Hispanic opinion on this issue is stable across urban, suburban or rural areas.

Other background characteristics are also important, but only in relation to specific education issues. Age, for example, influences performance ratings of local public schools. Specifically, one-third of people under age 50 (32 percent) say that their local public schools do a fair or a poor job, compared with one-quarter of older people (24 percent).

Gender is related to perceptions of illiteracy, with women more likely than men (52 percent vs. 44 percent) to report that this issue is at least a small problem in their local community.

Volunteerism and Charitable Giving for Educational Organizations

For many Americans, involvement with local education happens outside of a regular classroom or educational setting. They contribute by giving their time, expertise or money to organizations that help to improve education in their community. In turn, it is often the services of such organizations that bolster the work of public schools or help to remedy social problems.

Involvement with Educational Organizations Nationally

Twenty-six percent of Americans say that they volunteered for a tutoring or other education program, such as an after-school program or Sunday school class, during the 12 months preceding the interview. Somewhat more people reported donating money or personal belongings to a school, college or other educational organization. Specifically, 46 percent say that they made a contribution to such an organization in 1998.

Involvement with Educational Organizations in Knight Communities

Involvement with educational organizations is fairly consistent across Knight communities and generally on par with the nation. None of the 26 Knight communities show volunteerism rates substantially lower

than the national figure on educational programs, though several communities report notably higher rates.

The communities with volunteerism rates exceeding the national benchmark of 26 percent are: Gary, Tallahassee, Charlotte, Columbia, Myrtle Beach, Macon and Columbus. In addition to being primarily in the southern region of the United States, these communities share at least one of two factors related to increased volunteerism for educational programs: a large African-American population and a large share of residents who attend religious worship services on a regular basis. While these two factors are closely linked with one another, they each independently influence involvement with educational organizations. For example, 37 percent of African-Americans nationwide say they volunteered for this type of organization in the past year. That share decreases to 25 percent among white Americans and 21 percent among Hispanics. A similar pattern is evident in several Knight communities.

In terms of charitable contributions to educational organizations, most Knight communities show numbers similar to the national figure of 46 percent, but Milledgeville, Tallahassee and Boulder report notably higher shares of residents donating to such organizations in 1998. Other Knight communities, however, come up short in this respect. Specifically, Miami, Philadelphia, Bradenton and Duluth show considerably fewer contributors to educational organizations when considered in the national context.

The demographic characteristics of communities that rise above the national benchmark for charitable giving to educational organizations are mixed, as are those of cities that fall below that mark. For example, the communities are geographically diverse, representing different regions. Some are more urban than others. Like volunteerism for educational organizations, charitable contributions to such groups are related to religiosity. Nationally, people who attend religious services at least once a month are more likely than those who attend less often (49 percent vs. 42 percent) to donate to educational groups. This pattern might account for numbers of contributors in Milledgeville and Tallahassee. But income also influences charitable giving to educational organizations, with people nationwide in households earning at least $40,000 annually more likely than others to report donations in 1998 (59 percent vs. 38 percent). Boulder, a relatively affluent community but not a particularly religious one, might reflect this pattern.

**TABLE 32: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–
VOLUNTEERISM AND CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Community	Area Surveyed	*Percent Who ...* Volunteered in the past year	Contributed money or belongings in 1998
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	36	56
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	36	48
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	35	50
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	35	48
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	35	43
Macon, GA	Bibb County	34	42
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	32	45
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	30	47
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	30	46
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	29	45
State College, PA	Centre County	29	44
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	29	40
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	28	43
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	28	43
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	27	52
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	27	46
National		26	46
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	26	46
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	26	39
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	25	50
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	24	48
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	24	40
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	23	57
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	23	41
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	23	38
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	23	37
Akron, OH	Summit County	22	49

Influences on Involvement With Educational Organizations

Several factors, in addition to those discussed above, affect involvement with educational programs or organizations. Parents of children under age 18, for instance, are more likely than non-parents to volunteer for tutoring or other educational programs (34 percent vs. 22 percent) or to make charitable contributions to such organizations (56 percent vs. 40 percent in 1998).

College experience and personal feelings of efficacy are also related to involvement with educational programs or organizations. In particular, people who have attended college are more likely than those who have no college experience to volunteer for educational programs (34 percent vs. 19 percent) or to contribute to educational organizations (55 percent vs. 37 percent).

Likewise, people who feel that they can have a big impact on improving their community are more likely than those with less confidence in this regard to volunteer for (37 percent vs. 22 percent) or give donations to (58 percent vs. 41 percent) educational organizations. Age also influences involvement, with older Americans less likely than those under age 65 (12 percent vs. 29 percent) to volunteer for tutoring or other educational programs.

Organizations such as Kids Inc. are helping the parents of Tallahassee children like Taylor Jones afford the rising costs of child care.

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Chapter 5

WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Why Knight Foundation Cares

The past decade has brought dramatic changes to American family life. Welfare reform, youth violence and new patterns of immigration are among the forces affecting all types of families. Whereas we have made gains in some areas, such as decreasing welfare rolls, in many cases stress has extended beyond communities most at-risk for failure to touch families presumed to be sheltered from conflict.

The challenge for a funding organization is to understand what it takes to produce change. With this understanding, we can support a mixture of tested approaches and high-risk, experimental ideas that hold promise. As with our financial investments, our social investments need the right balance of safety and risk.

Meeting the needs of children and promoting the social welfare of our communities have been high priorities for Knight Foundation throughout our history. In the face of new challenges, the basic needs of children and families remain constant: safe, nurturing neighborhoods; effective education; proper nutrition; venues for invigorating recreation; and homes that are safe harbors from violence and abuse.

Our work in this area varies greatly in scale and type. Grants have ranged from modest awards of $20,000 or less to help neighborhood service agencies expand their capacity to major multiyear initiatives addressing significant social issues on a broad scale.

The Foundation is leading an initiative designed to help communities craft local responses to prevent youth violence and promote productive youth development. In this effort, we formed partnerships in 18 communities to work on either a community-based collaborative planning or an implementation project. Through a mix of planning and implementation projects, the Foundation is collaborating on systemic approaches to this issue.

With a three-year $630,000 grant to expand its Street Reach Project, the Mexican American Community Services Agency in San Jose is attempting to pull young men and women out of local gangs. Meanwhile, the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation is using a three-year $690,000 grant to promote parent involvement as a strategy for preventing youth violence through several neighborhood-based projects.

In Long Beach and Charlotte, where the Foundation is piloting our new approach to local grant making, early childhood well-being emerged as a local funding priority. In these communities, the Foundation already is working to craft customized strategies to produce outcomes critical to the well-being of children.

Aberdeen, S.D. (Brown County)
Akron, Ohio (Summit County)
Biloxi, Miss. (Harrison County)
Boca Raton, Fla. (Palm Beach County)
Boulder, Colo. (Boulder County)
Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee County)
Charlotte, N.C. (Mecklenburg County)
Columbia, S.C. (Richland County)
Columbus, Ga. (Muscogee County)
Detroit, Mich. (Wayne County)
Duluth, Minn. (St. Louis County)
Fort Wayne, Ind. (Allen County)
Gary, Ind. (Lake County)
Grand Forks, N.D. (Grand Forks County)
Lexington, Ky. (Fayette County)
Long Beach, Calif. (Los Angeles County)
Macon, Ga. (Bibb County)
Miami, Fla. (Miami-Dade County)
Milledgeville, Ga. (Baldwin County)
Myrtle Beach, S.C. (Horry County)
Philadelphia, Pa. (Philadelphia County)
St. Paul, Minn. (Ramsey County)
San Jose, Calif. (Santa Clara County)
State College, Pa. (Centre County)
Tallahassee, Fla. (Leon County)
Wichita, Kan. (Sedgwick County)

One thing we learned from the Community Indicators project is that majorities of adults in Knight communities have great concern about the problem of unsupervised youth in their communities. Part of this concern appears to be related to worries about crime and delinquency. A larger reason for the concern, however, is the perception that there are too few nourishing activities for youth during nonschool hours. In the future, as we seek to support activities to benefit children and families, we can work with local organizations to help address this need.

Current Community Conditions: Well-Being of Children and Families

Indicators For Well-Being of Children and Families:

1) Child Well-Being

First Trimester Prenatal Care for Women
Infants Born with Low Birth Weight
Infant Mortality Rate

2) Access to Physicians' Care

Pediatricians to Children Ratio
Physicians to Population Ratio

3) Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Arrests to Youth Age 10-17 Ratio

Highlights

The Knight communities vary somewhat in terms of the well-being of their children, access to physician's care and rate of juvenile arrests. Many communities have healthy children, adequate access to doctors and low rates of juvenile crime. However, other communities show signs of distress through children's health problems early in life, poor access to physicians and high rates of juvenile arrests.

- Five Knight communities – Santa Clara, Miami-Dade, Sedgwick, Centre and Summit counties – rank relatively high on indicators of child well-being. Most of them are in the top two groups of communities on the five indicators in this area.
- Five Knight communities – Boulder, Palm Beach, Fayette, St. Louis and Mecklenburg counties – also rank relatively high on indicators of child well-being. However, Boulder has a relatively low ranking on juvenile arrest rates, Fayette ranks low on infant mortality rates, St. Louis ranks low on pediatricians per child, and Mecklenburg has a low ranking on children born with low birth weight.

- Five Knight communities – Long Beach and Leon, Allen, Ramsey and Grand Forks counties – rank in the middle of the continuum on indicators of child well-being. However, Allen County ranks in the lowest group on pediatricians per child and Leon and Ramsey counties rank in the lowest group on juvenile arrests.
- Five Knight communities – Manatee, Richland, Bibb, Harrison and Brown counties – have less favorable rankings on indicators of child well-being. Richland and Harrison counties rank very low on prenatal maternal care, Bibb County is in the lowest group on low birth weight and infant mortality, and Manatee County ranks poorly on juvenile arrests.
- Six Knight communities – Gary and Muscogee, Baldwin, Wayne, Philadelphia and Horry counties – show signs of distress on indicators of child well-being, falling in the lowest group on these indicators. All six communities rank in the lowest groups on prenatal care and infant mortality and five of the six communities rank in the lowest groups on low birth weight.

TABLE 33: QUINTILE RANKING OF KNIGHT COMMUNITIES ON SELECTED CHILDREN AND FAMILY MEASURES

Community	1997 Percent of Women Receiving 1st Trimester Prenatal Care	1997 Percent of Babies Born with Low Birth Weight	1996 Infant Mortality Rate	1992 Pediatricians per 1,000 Children 0-17 Years	Overall Quintile Ranking
Allen County, IN	3	3	2	5	3
Baldwin County, GA	5	5	5	3	5
Bibb County, GA	2	5	5	3	4
Boulder County, CO	2	2	1	3	2
Brown County, SD	4	1	N/A	4	4
Centre County, PA	3	1	1	3	1
Miami-Dade County, FL	2	3	2	1	1
Fayette County, KY	2	2	4	1	2
Gary, IN	5	5	4	N/A	5
Grand Forks County, ND	3	2	1	4	3
Harrison County, MS	5	4	N/A	2	4
Horry County, SC	4	3	4	5	5
Leon County, FL	1	4	2	2	3
Long Beach, CA	4	2	2	N/A	3
Manatee County, FL	3	2	1	4	4
Mecklenburg County, NC	1	4	3	2	2
Muscogee County, GA	4	5	5	4	5
Palm Beach County, FL	3	3	2	2	2
Philadelphia County, PA	5	5	4	1	5
Ramsey County, MN	4	1	3	1	3
Richland County, SC	5	4	3	1	4
Santa Clara County, CA	2	1	1	2	1
Sedgwick County, KS	1	2	N/A	4	1
St. Louis County, MN	1	1	3	4	2
Summit County, OH	1	3	3	2	1
Wayne County, MI	5	4	4	3	5

Children and Families in Knight Communities

Why This is Important: The well-being of a community's children is a strong indicator of the well-being of the adult residents, as well as an indicator of the resources available to adults to facilitate caring for their children. In addition, the availability of resources to empower adults to care for their children has implications for children's long-term health and academic achievement.

Key Findings

- In comparison to the U.S., the Knight communities did not fare well with respect to children's well-being. That is, on average, the Knight communities had fewer women receiving prenatal care, more babies born with low birth weight and higher infant mortality rates.
- On average, the percent of women who received first-trimester prenatal care in 1997 was lower in the Knight communities (79.8 percent) than in the U.S. (82.5 percent).
- In 1997, the Knight communities with the highest proportion of women who received first-trimester prenatal care (greater than 87 percent) were Leon, Mecklenburg and Summit counties.
- The Knight communities with the lowest proportions of women receiving first-trimester prenatal care (75 percent or lower) were Gary and Muscogee, Harrison, Wayne, Richland, Baldwin and Philadelphia counties.
- On average, the percent of babies born with low birth weight was slightly higher in the Knight communities (8 percent) than in the nation (7.5 percent).
- In 1997, the Knight communities with the lowest proportion of babies born with low birth weight (less than 6 percent) were Centre, Brown and St. Louis counties.
- The Knight communities with the highest proportion of babies born with low birth weight (10 percent or higher) were Gary and Wayne, Richland, Muscogee, Philadelphia, Baldwin and Bibb counties.
- On average, the infant mortality rate in 1996 was higher in the Knight communities (8.7 per 1,000 live births) than in the nation (7.3).

- In 1996, the Knight communities with the lowest infant mortality rate (less than 5 per 1,000 live births) were Grand Forks, Boulder and Manatee counties.
- The Knight communities with the highest infant mortality rates (15 or greater) were Gary and Muscogee, Bibb and Baldwin counties.
- In general, there are more physicians per 1,000 population in the Knight communities (2.3) than in the U.S. (2.0).
- The Knight communities with large numbers of pediatricians (greater than 1.0 per 1,000 children) were Fayette, Philadelphia, Richland and Ramsey counties.
- Knight communities with relatively small numbers of pediatricians (less than 0.4) were Horry and Allen counties.
- The Knight communities with large numbers of physicians (greater than 3.0 per 1,000 population) were Fayette, Philadelphia and Richland counties.
- Knight communities with relatively small numbers of pediatricians (less than 1.5 per 1,000 population) were Sedgwick, Wayne, Horry and Centre counties.
- On average, the number of juvenile arrests was higher in the Knight communities (384 per 10,000 juveniles) than in the U.S. (297).
- The Knight communities with relatively low numbers of juvenile arrests (less than 240 per 10,000 juveniles) were Wayne, Allen and Horry counties.
- Other Knight communities with low numbers of juvenile arrests (less than 300 per 10,000 juveniles) were Bibb, Centre and Richland counties.
- The Knight communities with relatively high numbers of juvenile arrests (greater than 600 per 10,000 juveniles) were Manatee, Leon and Ramsey counties.

Table 34: Child Well-Being in Knight Communities

Community	1997 Percent of Women Receiving 1st Trimester Prenatal Care	1997 Percent of Babies Born with Low Birth Weight	1996 Infant Mortality Rate*
Allen County, IN	81.3%	8.0%	5.6
Baldwin County, GA	72.5%	10.7%	18.8
Bibb County, GA	85.2%	12.4%	18.5
Boulder County, CO	84.0%	7.4%	4.3
Brown County, SD	75.9%	5.7%	N/A
Centre County, PA	79.4%	5.4%	5.3
Miami-Dade County, FL	83.6%	7.9%	6.0
Fayette County, KY	85.3%	7.7%	8.8
Gary, IN	62.8%	12.4%	15.9
Grand Forks County, ND	83.3%	7.0%	2.7
Harrison County, MS	73.7%	9.0%	N/A
Horry County, SC	76.5%	8.0%	12.2
Leon County, FL	89.0%	8.6%	5.4
Long Beach, CA	78.0%	7.4%	5.9
Manatee County, FL	80.2%	7.7%	4.5
Mecklenburg County, NC	87.9%	9.0%	6.4
Muscogee County, GA	74.8%	10.4%	18.4
Palm Beach County, FL	79.8%	8.2%	5.8
Philadelphia County, PA	69.7%	11.2%	12.2
Ramsey County, MN	78.0%	6.7%	8.6
Richland County, SC	73.3%	10.3%	6.3
Santa Clara County, CA	84.3%	6.5%	5.1
Sedgwick County, KS	86.0%	7.3%	N/A
St. Louis County, MN	86.9%	5.9%	7.1
Summit County, OH	87.6%	8.5%	6.6
Wayne County, MI	73.5%	10.0%	11.0
U.S.	82.5%	7.5%	7.3
Knight Community Average	79.8%	8.0%	8.7

* Per 1,000 live births.

TABLE 35: ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS' CARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE IN KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

Community	1992 Pediatricians per 1,000 Children 0-17 Years	1992 Physicians per 1,000 Population	1995 Juvenile Arrests per 10,000 Juveniles Age 10-17
Allen County, IN	0.3	1.9	216
Baldwin County, GA	0.5	2.7	452
Bibb County, GA	0.5	2.8	258
Boulder County, CO	0.5	2.0	523
Brown County, SD	0.4	1.6	482
Centre County, PA	0.5	1.4	276
Miami-Dade County, FL	1.0	3.0	438
Fayette County, KY	1.8	5.3	398
Gary, IN	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grand Forks County, ND	0.4	2.3	540
Harrison County, MS	0.6	1.9	307
Horry County, SC	0.2	1.2	238
Leon County, FL	0.6	2.1	640
Long Beach, CA	N/A	N/A	N/A
Manatee County, FL	0.4	1.5	601
Mecklenburg County, NC	0.8	2.2	373
Muscogee County, GA	0.4	1.8	523
Palm Beach County, FL	0.6	2.1	301
Philadelphia County, PA	1.3	3.9	368
Ramsey County, MN	1.1	3.0	657
Richland County, SC	1.1	3.4	279
Santa Clara County, CA	0.9	2.5	346
Sedgwick County, KS	0.4	1.0	N/A
St. Louis County, MN	0.4	2.0	393
Summit County, OH	0.8	2.4	357
Wayne County, MI	0.5	1.1	201
U.S.	0.6	2.0	297
Knight Community Average	0.7	2.3	384

Survey Findings

Perceptions of Children and Social Welfare

Many Americans are worried about the well-being of young people in their communities. The issue of unsupervised children and teenagers ranks prominently on the list of worries. And while a lack of affordable, quality child care is not considered a top problem by the general public, key subgroups – parents, minorities and city dwellers – see it as a major concern. In response to these issues, many Americans report actively trying to improve the situation by giving their time and their money to youth development programs and other organizations for children.

Perceptions of Unsupervised Youth Nationally

Fully six in 10 Americans say that too many unsupervised children and teenagers is a problem in their local area, including 28 percent who view it as a big problem. Furthermore, of the 12 issues asked about in the surveys, unsupervised youth ranks second behind only crime, drugs or violence as the most important problem people see in their community.

The dominant perception that many young people lack supervision is related to opinions about societal influences on the values and the actions of children and teenagers. When asked to choose among several possible influences, 30 percent of American adults say that parents have the strongest effect on the values and behavior of youth in their local area. However, about one-quarter of the public (24 percent) says that young people's peers have the most influence on them. A comparable share (23 percent) consider entertainment such as music, films, television or video games the strongest influence. Moreover, only a fraction of the public says that schools (9 percent) or churches and other religious organizations (9 percent) – institutions traditionally entrusted with nurturing youth – have the biggest influence on young people's values and behavior.

Perceptions of Unsupervised Youth in Knight Communities

The extent to which residents perceive too many unsupervised children and teenagers as a problem varies considerably across the Knight communities, though altogether they generally show greater concern about this issue than is the case nationally. While 60 percent of people nationwide say the number of unsupervised youth in their local community is at least a small problem, that figure is substantially higher in 12 of the 26 Knight communities, including cities as disparate as Milledgeville, Philadelphia, Long Beach, Lexington and Aberdeen.

Moreover, almost two-thirds of Gary residents (63 percent) and about half of residents in Milledgeville, Macon and Philadelphia deem this issue a *big* problem in their community. These proportions are dramatically higher than the 28 percent nationally who report the same. Several other Knight communities also post figures far higher than the national mark. None of the Knight communities show figures exceptionally lower than the national percentage regarding this issue of unsupervised children and teenagers.

The overall sharp contrast with the nation notwithstanding, perceptions of unsupervised youth as a problem vary considerably across Knight communities, especially in terms of the magnitude of the problem. For example, about seven in 10 residents in both Fort Wayne and Grand Forks say that too many unsupervised children and teens is at least a small problem. Yet 37 percent in Fort Wayne, compared to 22 percent in Grand Forks, consider this issue a *big* problem. And while communities such as Columbia, St. Paul and Bradenton are on par with the nation regarding perceptions of unsupervised youth, the relatively low shares of residents who say this issue is a problem set these cities apart from most other Knight communities.

Concern about the number of unsupervised children and teenagers is evident in Knight communities of all sizes and descriptions, in each region. And in some communities this concern fits within the context of the local arrest rates for juveniles. Reported incidents of serious crimes committed by juveniles is often a reflection of the availability of healthful activities for youth within the community, particularly during after-school hours.

Recent juvenile crime rates (1995) show that the number of juvenile arrest rates is higher than the national average in several Knight communities. In some instances, these higher arrest rates correspond to exceptionally high shares of residents saying that unsupervised youth is a problem in the community. Specifically, this relationship is apparent in Milledgeville, Macon, Miami, Aberdeen and Grand Forks.

Likewise, in some Knight communities with low rates of juvenile crime, relatively few residents say the number of unsupervised youth is a problem. These include Myrtle Beach, State College, Columbia and Charlotte.

In other Knight communities, there is less congruence. Residents' perceptions of unsupervised youth in the community seem contradictory to the rate of reported juvenile crimes. For instance, with crime rates of over 600 arrests per 10,000 juveniles, St. Paul, Tallahassee and Bradenton each exceed the national average. Yet in each of these communities the share of residents saying too many unsupervised youth is a big problem is on par with the national figure of 28 percent.

In contrast, reported juvenile crime rates are relatively low in Detroit, Fort Wayne and Macon, but the shares of residents in these communities who perceive unsupervised youth as a big problem range from 35 percent in Detroit to 49 percent in Macon – figures considerably higher than the national mark.

Disparity between public perception and the local reality regarding issues related to crime and young people are common. There are a number of potential explanations. Typically, these include a strong police presence in a community, a major shift in the number of young people in the area, news coverage of crime in the area and national news stories about juvenile crime. In this case specifically, another explanation is that public perception is simply ahead of recorded statistics.

The available juvenile crime rates are from 1995, so it is reasonable to speculate that juvenile arrest rates – and circumstances for youth in general – have changed in some communities since that time. The apparent discrepancy between public opinion and the available statistics may reflect such change. In addition, local communities have different thresholds for the presence of unsupervised youth, especially teenagers, and as a result judge differently the extent of problems related to children and teenagers.

**TABLE 36: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–
UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS IN THE LOCAL AREA**

		Percent Who Say...			
Community	Area Surveyed	Big Problem	Small Problem	Not a Problem	Juvenile Arrests per 10,000 Juveniles Age 10-17*
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	63	21	13	N/A
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	50	29	18	452
Macon, GA	Bibb County	49	21	29	258
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	47	28	22	368
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	44	29	23	N/A
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	40	28	28	523
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	37	33	26	216
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	35	28	34	201
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	35	25	36	301
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	34	34	28	N/A
Akron, OH	Summit County	34	32	32	357
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward	34	23	39	438**
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	33	33	30	307
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	32	34	30	640
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	32	31	33	346
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	32	29	37	373
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	31	28	36	238
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland	30	28	39	279***
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	30	25	37	601
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	29	39	28	398
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	28	40	28	393
National		28	32	37	297
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	25	46	25	482
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	25	34	38	657
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	22	48	27	540
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	21	44	31	523
State College, PA	Centre County	21	41	34	276

* Juvenile arrest rates for 1995.
** Juvenile arrest information for Miami-Dade County, FL only
*** Juvenile arrest information for Richland County, SC only.

Perceptions of Child Care Nationally

Many Americans report that adequate child care is a problem in their local community, though this is not as salient an issue as the number of unsupervised youth. Overall, 46 percent say that a lack of affordable, quality child care is a problem where they live. However, many of these people (26 percent) characterize it as only a small problem, and 37 percent of the public says that a lack of affordable, quality child care is not a problem at all. In addition, many people (18 percent) admit that they are not sure whether this issue is problematic in their local community.

Perceptions of Child Care in Knight Communities

Perceptions of a lack of affordable, quality child care are fairly consistent across Knight communities and generally on par with the nation. None of the 26 Knight communities show figures substantially lower than the national numbers on this issue, once the large proportions of people who say they are uncertain about the extent of the problem are taken into account.

There are, however, several communities with figures substantially higher than the national figure. While 46 percent of people nationwide say that a lack of adequate child care is a problem, that share rises to about six in 10 residents in Gary, San Jose, Milledgeville and Long Beach.

While the overall percentages of residents who consider this issue a problem in Macon, Biloxi and Columbus mirror that of the nation, one-quarter of residents in each of these communities say that a lack of adequate child care is a *big* problem. For these particular communities, that proportion is significantly higher than the national figure of 20 percent. Each of these communities has a racially or ethnically diverse population, a factor that strongly influences perceptions of the extent to which a lack of adequate child care is a problem. For example, 40 percent of Hispanics and 28 percent of African-Americans nationwide say that not enough affordable, quality child care is a big problem. That share decreases to 16 percent among white Americans. A similar pattern is evident in several Knight communities.

TABLE 37: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION—AFFORDABLE, QUALITY CHILD CARE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

		Percent Who Say...		
Community	Area Surveyed	Big Problem	Small Problem	Not a Problem
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	36	25	20
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	31	26	20
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	30	31	24
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	30	27	28
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	30	16	27
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	29	21	27
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	25	25	20
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	25	24	33
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	25	23	34
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	25	21	32
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	25	21	28
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	24	24	33
Macon, GA	Bibb County	24	24	37
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	23	25	28
Akron, OH	Summit County	23	22	35
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	23	21	32
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	22	22	32
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	21	28	30
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	21	26	32
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	21	22	37
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	21	20	35
National		20	26	37
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	20	17	31
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	18	30	40
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	18	28	33
State College, PA	Centre County	16	30	30
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	16	27	42

Influences on Perceptions of Unsupervised Youth and Child Care

At the national level, perceptions of unsupervised youth and perceptions of child care are influenced by parental status, race or ethnicity, income and community type. While these four factors are highly correlated, each one is independently important to the ways people view these issues related to children's well-being.

As might be expected, parents of children under age 18 are more likely than non-parents to express concern about unsupervised children and teenagers and a lack of affordable, quality child care. Sixty-five percent of parents, compared with 58 percent of non-parents, say unsupervised youth are at least a small problem where they live. Child care, in particular, is an issue that parents and non-parents view differently. While three in 10 parents (31 percent) deems a lack of adequate child care a *big* problem in their local community, that ratio is just one in seven among non-parents (15 percent). In addition, age is a factor among people who are not parents of children or teens, with younger adults more likely than those aged 50 or older to consider each of these issues a problem.

African-Americans and Hispanics, people in low- to middle-income brackets, and those living in urban areas are generally more likely than others to consider each of these issues a problem. While African-Americans are as likely as white Americans to view each issue as at least a small problem, they are more likely than whites to deem these issues *big* problems.

For example, Hispanics are more likely overall than white Americans (70 percent vs. 59 percent) to say that the number of unsupervised youth is a problem in their local area. But both Hispanics (46 percent) and African-Americans (38 percent) are more likely than white Americans (24 percent) to view it as a *big* problem. The pattern is slightly different in regard to perceptions of child care. While African-Americans are more likely than white Americans (28 percent vs. 16 percent) to say that affordable, quality child care is a big problem in their local community, Hispanics (40 percent) are more likely than both groups to consider this issue a big problem.

In terms of income, adults in households earning less than $60,000 per year are more likely than those in households earning $60,000 or more to say that unsupervised youth (65 percent vs. 53 percent) and a lack of adequate child care are at least a small problem locally. Moreover, people in low- to middle-income brackets are more likely to deem each of these issues major problems.

For instance, while 34 percent of those in households with annual incomes of less than $60,000 say that too many unsupervised children and teens is a big problem, the same is true of just 15 percent of those in households with higher incomes. As an example of the effects of urban life, 57 percent of those living in urban areas report that a lack of affordable, quality child care is a problem in their community. That share decreases to 45 percent among those living in rural areas and to 39 percent among suburbanites.

While both urban and rural residents are more likely than suburban residents (72 percent and 63 percent vs. 51 percent for suburban) to say that unsupervised youth is a problem where they live, people who live in urban areas are more likely than all others to consider this a big problem.

Finally, gender is important, but only in relation to perceptions of a lack of adequate child care. Fully half of women say that a lack of affordable, quality child care is a problem in their local community, including 25 percent who characterize it as a big problem. Among men those shares decrease considerably: 41 percent view this issue as a problem, only 14 percent of whom view it a big problem.

Volunteerism and Charitable Giving for Youth Development Organizations

Many Americans actively seek to address the problems affecting youth in their community by getting involved with organizations that focus on the needs of children and teenagers. People report giving their time, money and personal belongings to youth development programs such as day care centers, scout troops or Little League and to other organizations for children. It is often the services of such programs and activities that help remedy problems identified by residents nationwide – supervised activities for young people and support for parents of young children.

Involvement with Youth Development Organizations Nationally

Three in 10 people nationwide (29 percent) say they spent time volunteering for a youth development program such as a child-care center, scout troop or Little League in the 12 months preceding the interview. In addition, 46 percent report making a charitable contribution to such an organization in 1998.

Involvement with Youth Development Organizations in Knight Communities

Involvement with youth development organizations is stable across Knight communities and participation in the communities is generally consistent with the nation. In terms of volunteering for youth development programs, none of the 26 Knight communities show volunteerism rates substantially higher than the national figure of 29 percent. Only a few communities report notably lower rates. Specifically, Miami, San Jose, Philadelphia and Boca Raton have significantly lower shares of residents reporting that they volunteer for youth development programs.

In terms of charitable contributions to such programs or other organizations for children, most Knight communities post rates similar to the national figure of 46 percent. Only Aberdeen reports a substantially higher share of residents donating to such programs or organizations in 1998. On the other hand, Miami, Detroit and Macon each fall somewhat short of the national benchmark on this measure.

**TABLE 38: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–
VOLUNTEERISM AND CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

		Percent Who ...	
Community	Area Surveyed	Volunteered in the past year	Contributed money or belongings in 1998
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	32	50
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	32	42
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	31	44
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	31	47
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	31	48
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	30	58
State College, PA	Centre County	30	44
Macon, GA	Bibb County	30	42
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	29	48
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	29	42
National		29	46
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	29	47
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	29	41
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	28	47
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	28	42
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	28	41
Akron, OH	Summit County	27	46
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	27	49
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	27	46
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	27	45
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	26	45
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	26	44
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	24	48
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	23	41
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	23	41
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	22	44
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	21	38

Influences on Involvement With Youth Development Organizations

Several factors, including parental status, feelings of efficacy and religiosity affect involvement with youth development programs and other organizations for children. However, race or ethnicity, which influences many aspects of civic participation, is not related to involvement with youth development programs.

Parents of children under age 18, people who think they can have an impact on their community and those who regularly attend worship services are more likely than others to volunteer for youth development programs or to make charitable contributions to such organizations. As might be expected, substantially more parents than non-parents report volunteering (45 percent vs. 20 percent) or donating money or personal belongings (57 percent vs. 40 percent in 1998) to youth development programs in their community.

Similarly, adults who feel that they can have at least a moderate impact on improving their community are more likely than those with less confidence in this regard to volunteer for (32 percent vs. 19 percent) or give donations to (51 percent vs. 34 percent) youth development organizations, as are people who attend worship services at least once a month when compared with those who attend less often or not at all.

Income and age are also related to involvement with youth-oriented programs. For example, 39 percent of people in households with annual incomes of at least $40,000, compared with 23 percent with lower household incomes, say that they volunteered for a youth development program in the past year.

A similar pattern is evident with respect to age and charitable contributions to such organizations. Younger Americans are more likely than those 50 or older to report volunteering for a youth-oriented program. But at age 30, there is split. About half (49 percent) of those 30 or older, compared with 35 percent of younger adults, contributed to a youth-oriented organization in 1998.

Finally, education is important, but only in relation to volunteerism. Specifically, people who have attended college are more likely than those who have no college experience to volunteer for youth development programs (33 percent vs. 26 percent). And among white Americans, community type also influences volunteerism, with nonurban whites more likely than urban whites (33 percent vs. 18 percent) to report spending time helping a youth development program in the past year.

Pastor Matthew Harrison (left) chats with contractor Jerry Carter, a lifelong Fort Wayne resident who has built many new homes in southeast Fort Wayne. This house is on St. Martins Street and already has a new owner.

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Chapter 6

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Why Knight Foundation Cares

In helping to improve the quality of life in communities, it is critical that we strengthen the performance of housing and community development efforts. Community building requires a complex array of services to meet residents' needs. The Foundation's local grant making supports efforts to revitalize communities through job training, affordable housing, recreation and effective policies to manage growth.

Given the scarcity of resources, community development projects that seek to streamline or coordinate services through partnership, collaboration and coalition-building get our attention. Macon, Ga., is one such model. With a population of 97,255 and poverty highly centralized, Macon has struggled with the implications of a deteriorating downtown.

Macon community leaders recognized that downtown revitalization could only happen if they took an inclusive, coordinated approach. In 1997 they formed a public-private partnership, NewTown Macon, and developed a sophisticated $36 million, eight-project strategy for the downtown business district.

Knight's support for Macon's effort included a $1 million grant to NewTown Macon and a $2 million opportunity fund to support community organizations working on revitalization efforts in downtown residential neighborhoods. Macon's Mercer University is taking a lead role in revitalizing a 40-square-block, transitional neighborhood as part of the effort.

Transforming distressed neighborhoods into strong communities, of course, is more than a matter of fixing up old houses and picking up litter. Real neighborhood revitalization involves not just bricks and mortar. It also involves renewing the civic spirit that binds residents together and strengthening resources needed to make neighborhoods livable. Knight Foundation provides major funding to such national community development organizations as the Enterprise Foundation of Maryland and Local Initiatives Support Corporation of New York. Both use coordinated strategies for property development, delivery of human services and civic participation.

Strengthening communities also means establishing frameworks to sustain resources. Addressing this concern, the Foundation works to strengthen community foundations. The Foundation expects to invest more than $50 million over the next five years to expand existing donor-advised funds or start new funds. The goal is to provide a flexible mechanism for a variety of local grants that are smaller than the Foundation customarily makes or are needed more quickly than the Foundation can respond.

Aberdeen, S.D. (Brown County)
Akron, Ohio (Summit County)
Biloxi, Miss. (Harrison County)
Boca Raton, Fla. (Palm Beach County)
Boulder, Colo. (Boulder County)
Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee County)
Charlotte, N.C. (Mecklenburg County)
Columbia, S.C. (Richland County)
Columbus, Ga. (Muscogee County)
Detroit, Mich. (Wayne County)
Duluth, Minn. (St. Louis County)
Fort Wayne, Ind. (Allen County)
Gary, Ind. (Lake County)
Grand Forks, N.D. (Grand Forks County)
Lexington, Ky. (Fayette County)
Long Beach, Calif. (Los Angeles County)
Macon, Ga. (Bibb County)
Miami, Fla. (Miami-Dade County)
Milledgeville, Ga. (Baldwin County)
Myrtle Beach, S.C. (Horry County)
Philadelphia, Pa. (Philadelphia County)
St. Paul, Minn. (Ramsey County)
San Jose, Calif. (Santa Clara County)
State College, Pa. (Centre County)
Tallahassee, Fla. (Leon County)
Wichita, Kan. (Sedgwick County)

In the San Jose area, for instance, the robust Silicon Valley economy is creating jobs and wealth, thus driving up housing costs and rent. A $200,000 Knight Foundation grant to the Community Foundation of Silicon Valley provided start-up operating costs for a new Housing Trust Fund, working to make sure the region's homeless and economically deprived residents have roofs over their heads.

In Miami-Dade County, the Foundation has helped establish a national model for the continuum of care homeless people need to get their lives on track. In Lexington, the Foundation for Affordable Housing is using a $100,000 grant to construct additional units at a single-room-occupancy housing program for the homeless. We have supported similar efforts in Akron, Boulder, Bradenton, St. Paul, Duluth, Grand Forks, Wichita and other communities.

One thing we learned from the Community Indicators project is that a lack of affordable housing – along with the quality of housing stock – is a concern in all types of communities. It's no surprise that this is a major concern in communities such as San Jose and Boulder, which have experienced rapid population growth. But it's also a critical concern in depressed urban centers such as Gary and small university towns such as State College. Large shares of adults in communities as disparate as Long Beach, Milledgeville, Biloxi and Grand Forks also agree that a lack of affordable housing is a notable problem locally. In the future, as Knight Foundation creates customized funding plans that suit the needs of each community, this information will help us seek out special strategies for each situation.

Current Community Conditions: Housing and Community Development

Indicators for Housing and Community Development:

1) Housing Affordability

Median Housing Value
Monthly Income Spent on Home Ownership
Monthly Income Spent on Rental Costs

2) Housing Stability

Occupied and Vacant Housing Units
Owner-Occupied and Rental Housing
Residential Mobility

3) Housing Stock

Age of Housing Units
New Home Construction: Building Permits

4) Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Violent Crime
Total Crime Index

Highlights

The Knight communities vary widely in housing affordability, their housing conditions and their level of safety. Many communities have reasonable housing costs, stable neighborhoods and low crime rates. However, in some communities, affordable housing is scarce, the communities' residents are highly mobile and crime is quite prevalent. The communities are grouped below based on their relative affordability, housing conditions and overall safety.

- Six Knight communities – Baldwin, Brown, Allen, St. Louis, Summit and Harrison counties – are stable, low-crime areas with high levels of home ownership and generally affordable housing.
- Six Knight communities – Sedgwick, Manatee, Santa Clara, Wayne, Philadelphia and Horry counties – are moderately stable, with mixed levels of housing affordability, relatively high home ownership and generally high levels of crime.
- Six Knight communities – Palm Beach, Muscogee, Mecklenburg, Bibb, Ramsey and Richland counties – have low levels of homeowner occupancy, generally high levels of crime and moderately affordable housing.
- Five Knight communities – Gary and Fayette, Grand Forks, Boulder and Centre counties – have low levels of owner occupancy and residential mobility but vary in housing affordability and the level of crime.
- Three Knight communities – Long Beach and Leon and Miami-Dade counties – have indicators that suggest problems with housing and crime.

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TABLE 39: QUINTILE RANKING OF KNIGHT COMMUNITIES ON SELECTED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Community	Percent of Houses Built before 1950	1990 Percent Owner-Occupied Housing	1990 Percent Living in a Different Residence than 5 Years Prior	1997 Total Crimes Per 10,000 Persons	Overall Quintile Ranking
Allen County, IN	1	1	2	2	1
Baldwin County, GA	2	2	2	1	1
Bibb County, GA	4	4	2	5	3
Boulder County, CO	3	3	5	2	4
Brown County, SD	2	2	1	1	1
Centre County, PA	3	3	4	1	4
Miami-Dade County, FL	5	5	3	5	5
Fayette County, KY	5	5	5	3	4
Gary, IN	4	4	1	5	4
Grand Forks County, ND	5	5	5	2	4
Harrison County, MS	3	3	2	3	1
Horry County, SC	2	2	3	5	2
Leon County, FL	5	5	5	4	5
Long Beach, CA	5	5	5	2	5
Manatee County, FL	1	1	4	2	2
Mecklenburg County, NC	4	4	4	4	4
Muscogee County, GA	5	5	4	3	3
Palm Beach County, FL	1	1	4	4	3
Philadelphia County, PA	3	3	1	3	2
Ramsey County, MN	3	3	2	3	3
Richland County, SC	4	4	3	4	3
Santa Clara County, CA	4	4	3	1	2
Sedgwick County, KS	2	2	3	N/A	2
St. Louis County, MN	1	1	1	1	1
Summit County, OH	1	1	1	N/A	2
Wayne County, MI	2	2	1	4	2

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Housing in Knight Communities

Why This is Important: The status of housing in a community reflects the overall stability of a community, whether it is in a period of growth or decline and its capacity for providing its residents with one of their most basic needs – shelter.

Key Findings

- On average, the median housing value for the Knight communities was slightly higher than the U.S. median in 1990. However, the median value of homes in the Knight communities varied widely, ranging from $31,300 in Gary to $287,700 in Santa Clara County.
- On average, the proportion of monthly income spent on home-ownership costs in the Knight communities (20.3 percent) was just below the U.S. average of 21 percent. The proportion of income spent on home-ownership costs ranged from 15.2 percent in St. Louis County to 25.1 percent in Long Beach.
- In 1990, the Knight communities in which the largest portion of monthly income (23 percent or more) was spent on home-ownership costs were Long Beach and Santa Clara, Palm Beach, Manatee, Miami-Dade and Horry counties.
- The Knight communities in which the smallest percent of monthly income (less than 18 percent) was spent on home-ownership costs were Brown, Wayne, Allen and St. Louis counties.
- The proportion of monthly income spent on rental costs in the Knight communities (27.2 percent) was slightly above the U.S. average of 26.4 percent. However, it ranged from 23.7 percent in Allen County to 31.3 percent in Miami-Dade and Centre counties.
- In 1990, the Knight communities in which the largest portion of monthly income was spent on rental costs (30 percent or more) were Long Beach and Centre, Miami-Dade and Leon counties.
- The Knight communities in which the smallest percent of monthly income was spent on rental costs (less than 25 percent) were Fayette, Baldwin, Mecklenburg, Brown and Allen counties.
- On average, building permits authorized in 1992 averaged about 3.2 percent of the 1990 housing stock in the Knight communities. This figure was consistent with the U.S. average of 3.1 percent.
- The Knight communities with the largest proportion of permits as a percent housing stock (greater than 5 percent) were Leon, Mecklenburg, Boulder, Palm Beach and Manatee counties.

- Communities in which building permits accounted for the smallest percentage of 1990 housing stock (less than 1.5 percent) were the cities of Long Beach and Gary and Brown, Wayne and Philadelphia counties.
- In 1990, the percentage of homes built before 1950 was lower in the Knight communities than in the U.S. – 24.4 percent, compared to 27.7 percent. However, the proportion of homes built before 1950 varied across the Knight communities, ranging from 4.9 percent in Palm Beach County to 65.2 percent in Philadelphia County.
- On average, the percent of vacant housing was slightly higher in the Knight communities than in the U.S. – 10.6 percent compared to 10.1 percent. However, the proportion of vacant homes varied from community to community, ranging from 3.7 percent in Santa Clara County to 38 percent in Horry County.
- The average percentage of homes that were owner-occupied was slightly lower in the Knight communities than in the U.S. – 61.2 percent compared to 64.2 percent. The proportion of owner-occupied homes in the Knight communities ranged substantially, from 41 percent in Long Beach to 74.2 percent in St. Louis County.
- On average, residents in the Knight communities tended to be slightly more mobile than the U.S. as a whole. However, the percentage of those who reported living in a different residence in 1990 than they did in 1985 varied among communities, ranging from 34.3 percent in Philadelphia County to 60.1 percent in Leon County.
- In 1990, the Knight communities with the lowest percent of persons living in a different residence in 1985 (less than 40 percent) were Gary and Philadelphia, St. Louis and Wayne counties.
- The communities with highly mobile populations (greater than 55 percent) were Long Beach and Palm Beach, Grand Forks, Fayette, Boulder and Leon counties.

Table 40: Housing Affordability in Knight Communities

Community	1990 Median Housing Value
Santa Clara County, CA	$287,700
Long Beach, CA	$221,000
Boulder County, CO	$102,300
Palm Beach County, FL	$98,100
Mecklenburg County, NC	$86,300
Miami-Dade County, FL	$86,000
Ramsey County, MN	$82,900
Manatee County, FL	$79,000
Horry County, SC	$75,500
Centre County, PA	$74,900
Leon County, FL	$74,400
Fayette County, KY	$72,900
Richland County, SC	$70,800
Grand Forks County, ND	$62,200
Summit County, OH	$61,000
Allen County, IN	$59,400
Muscogee County, GA	$58,100
Sedgwick County, KS	$58,000
Bibb County, GA	$57,300
Baldwin County, GA	$55,100
Harrison County, MS	$54,900
Philadelphia County, PA	$48,400
Wayne County, MI	$47,500
Brown County, SD	$46,000
St. Louis County, MN	$41,600
Gary, IN	$31,300
U.S.	$78,500
Knight Community Average	$82,650

TABLE 41: HOUSING STOCK IN KNIGHT COMMUNITIES (1990)

Community	Percent of Houses Built Before 1950
Philadelphia County, PA	65.2%
St. Louis County, MN	46.5%
Wayne County, MI	44.9%
Brown County, SD	42.0%
Long Beach, CA	38.7%
Gary, IN	38.6%
Ramsey County, MN	37.3%
Summit County, OH	37.3%
Allen County, IN	29.6%
Centre County, PA	26.8%
Sedgwick County, KS	26.0%
Grand Forks County, ND	24.8%
Bibb County, GA	23.0%
Muscogee County, GA	18.2%
Fayette County, KY	17.6%
Richland County, SC	15.2%
Harrison County, MS	15.0%
Baldwin County, GA	13.6%
Boulder County, CO	12.7%
Mecklenburg County, NC	12.6%
Miami-Dade County, FL	12.3%
Santa Clara County, CA	11.2%
Leon County, FL	7.1%
Manatee County, FL	6.7%
Horry County, SC	5.7%
Palm Beach County, FL	4.9%
U.S.	27.0%
Knight Community Average	24.4%

Crime in Knight Communities

Why This is Important: The level of reported crimes in a community is a strong indicator of economic distress and lack of community cohesion. Communities in which crimes occur often are generally ones in which resources are limited.

Key Findings

- The majority of the Knight communities experienced a decline in crime between the years 1991 and 1998. However, in 1997, the average number of crimes per 10,000 population in the Knight communities was higher than the national average for both violent and total crimes.
- The communities with the highest incidence of violent crimes in 1997 were Gary and Mecklenburg and Miami-Dade counties. Other communities with a high incidence of violent crimes were Leon, Wayne, Philadelphia, Richland and Horry counties.
- Communities with the lowest incidence of violent crimes in 1997 were Brown, Grand Forks and Centre counties. Other communities with a low incidence of violent crimes were Boulder and St. Louis counties.
- The Knight communities with the highest incidence of total crime in 1997 were Gary and Mecklenburg, Bibb, Horry and Miami-Dade counties. Other counties with a high incidence of total crime were Palm Beach and Wayne counties.
- The communities with the lowest incidence of total crime in 1997 were Centre, Brown, Baldwin and Santa Clara counties. Other communities with a low incidence of total crime were Boulder and St. Louis counties.

TABLE 42: CRIME IN KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

Community	1997 Violent Crimes per 10,000 Persons	1997 Total Crimes per 10,000 Persons
Gary, IN	176.0	925.8
Miami-Dade County, FL	169.0	1,078.3
Mecklenburg County, NC	151.9	904.1
Philadelphia County, PA	132.4	659.5
Leon County, FL	129.7	765.5
Wayne County, MI	126.6	813.3
Richland County, SC	120.0	792.1
Horry County, SC	109.5	1,049.4
Manatee County, FL	99.9	612.7
Long Beach, CA	98.4	510.2
Palm Beach County, FL	97.5	828.6
Fayette County, KY	80.4	632.1
Bibb County, GA	68.2	947.0
Santa Clara County, CA	57.4	373.5
Ramsey County, MN	56.3	648.6
Muscogee County, GA	52.7	710.9
Harrison County, MS	42.8	651.4
Allen County, IN	36.6	594.8
Baldwin County, GA	33.2	315.5
St. Louis County, MN	29.1	400.3
Boulder County, CO	25.4	484.7
Centre County, PA	10.9	222.7
Grand Forks County, ND	10.8	442.6
Brown County, SD	9.8	300.3
Sedgwick County, KS	N/A	N/A
Summit County, OH	N/A	N/A
U.S.	61.1	492.1
Knight Community Average	80.2	652.7

Survey Findings

Perceptions of Safety

To build strong communities, residents must feel safe from crime, especially in their most immediate surroundings. The perception of a serious threat to the safety of the individual and the family in intimate settings creates a major obstacle to solving many civic problems. The surveys included questions about people's feelings of safety in three situations: at home at night, when walking in their neighborhood after dark and when downtown at night.

Perceptions of Safety Nationally

Most Americans feel they are safe when in their own homes, but they feel less so when they venture outside. Practically all people (97 percent) feel safe from crime when they are at home at night, including 74 percent who say they feel very safe in this situation. Likewise, a large majority say that they feel at least somewhat safe when walking in their neighborhood after dark. Slightly fewer residents (51 percent) feel very safe walking in their neighborhood when compared with being inside their homes.

People's sense of security decreases markedly, however, with regard to being in their community's equivalent of "downtown" at night. This pattern holds up across demographic distinctions. While nearly seven in 10 people say they feel safe from crime when downtown at night, only 32 percent of those people say they feel very safe. Another 22 percent say they do not feel safe in this situation.

Table 43: Perceptions of Community Safety: The Nation

How safe are you and your family from crime...	Very Safe %	Somewhat Safe %	Not Too Safe %	Not at All Safe %
At home at night	74	23	2	1
When walking in your neighborhood after dark	51	32	9	3
When downtown at night	32	37	14	8

While many Americans report that they feel safe from crime in these three situations, fully seven in 10 say that crime, drugs or violence are a problem in the community where they live. This includes 26 percent who characterize these issues as a big problem.

The apparent contradiction in these perceptions may be explained to some extent by the high level of confidence many people have in their local police department. Three in four Americans think that their local police are doing an excellent (23 percent) or a good (51 percent) job serving their community. Relatively few people rate the work of their police department as fair (19 percent) or poor (5 percent).

Perceptions of Safety in Knight Communities

Feelings of safety vary widely across the Knight communities, even in terms of feeling safe in one's own home. For example, while nationally 74 percent of adults say they feel very safe at home at night, several Knight communities have substantially higher shares of residents reporting the same.

At least eight in 10 residents of Aberdeen, Grand Forks, Duluth, State College and Boulder say they feel very safe at home at night. On the other hand, while very few people nationwide (3 percent) report feeling vulnerable to crime in their own homes at night, about one-tenth of residents in Philadelphia, Gary, Long Beach and Miami-Dade County report fear of crime in this situation.

Residents' feelings of safety when at home appear to differ by community type. Those living in urban areas such as Philadelphia feel somewhat more vulnerable to crime than those in suburban or rural areas such as Aberdeen or State College.

By comparison, residents' feelings of safety either when walking in their neighborhood after dark or when downtown at night are less easily distinguished. Also, the number of Knight communities in which residents feel safe in these situations decreases the farther residents are from their own home. For example, the five Knight communities noted above as having larger shares of residents who feel safe at home at night also are above par with regard to feelings of safety in one's neighborhood. However, only Aberdeen, Boulder and Grand Forks have considerably higher shares of residents reporting that they feel very safe when downtown at night. And while these communities all have a relatively low incidence of crime, they differ in a number of other ways including size, recent growth and urban scale.

In terms of residents feeling unsafe in their own neighborhoods or when downtown, the Knight communities' divergence from the nation as a whole is even more pronounced. There is also a disparity among the cities where fear is prevalent. While nationally only 13 percent say that they feel vulnerable to crime when walking in their neighborhood after dark, several Knight communities have a higher percentage of residents who feel they are not safe in this situation.

As might be expected, intensely urban areas such as Philadelphia, Gary, Long Beach and Miami report figures considerably higher than the national figure, and figures for Detroit and San Jose are also notably higher. But this is not just a big-city concern. Residents of small cities such as Macon and Columbus also indicate a greater degree of concern than people nationwide, as do their Georgia neighbors in small-town Milledgeville where 21 percent of residents say they do not feel safe walking in their neighborhood after dark.

TABLE 44: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION—FEELINGS OF SAFETY IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

		Neighborhood at Night *Percent Who Say...*		*Downtown at Night* *Percent Who Say...*	
Community	Area Surveyed	Unsafe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	33	60	47	35
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	30	65	31	53
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	27	69	36	55
Macon, GA	Bibb County	26	67	47	37
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	21	74	22	70
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward	20	75	45	38
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	19	73	27	60
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	17	76	31	51
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	17	80	31	61
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	16	79	38	50
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	16	80	33	54
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	13	81	32	47
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland	13	80	28	55
National		13	83	22	69
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	13	83	19	70
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	13	85	19	63
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	12	82	25	63
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	12	84	23	66
Akron, OH	Summit County	11	83	28	56
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	11	85	23	60
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	11	85	20	69
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	10	87	21	69
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	8	86	16	73
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	5	94	7	85
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	5	92	7	87
State College, PA	Centre County	4	93	10	84
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	3	93	9	79

Residents of Miami, Gary and Macon are especially fearful of downtown crime, as compared to the national benchmark. Other communities with particularly high figures for fear of crime in the downtown area are Fort Wayne, Charlotte, Akron, Bradenton and Columbia. While many of these communities share characteristics that would reasonably contribute to residents' fear of crime – urban scale, major growth in the population, high incidence of violent crimes – others have very few of these characteristics. There is no simple explanation for residents' concerns about crime.

Influences on Perceptions of Safety

Several factors influence adults' perceptions of safety. These include race or ethnicity, income, community type and gender. While nine in 10 Americans across demographic groups are equally likely to feel at least somewhat safe in their homes at night, there are notable differences among subgroups with regard to feeling very safe in this situation. Differences about perception of safety either when walking in one's neighborhood after dark or when downtown at night are more pronounced.

Men and women have consistently different perceptions of safety. Women are more likely than men to express fear of crime in all settings. For example, fully three-quarters of men say that they feel safe when downtown at night, including 36 percent who say they feel very safe. By comparison, just two-thirds of women say they feel safe in this situation, only 27 percent of whom indicate that they feel very safe.

Even when walking in their own neighborhood, women are more concerned about safety than men: just 44 percent versus 59 percent feel very safe.

In terms of race or ethnicity, white Americans are more likely than both African-Americans and Hispanics to report feeling safe when walking in their neighborhood after dark (87 percent vs. 75 percent and 69 percent) or when downtown at night (71 percent vs. 61 percent each). There is a similar pattern with respect to feeling safe at home at night; more white Americans than either African-Americans or Hispanics (77 percent vs. 63 percent or 60 percent) report that they feel very safe in this situation.

Income and community type are also related to feeling safe from crime in these situations. Twenty-six percent of residents in households earning less than $20,000 report feeling unsafe when walking in their neighborhoods after dark, compared with only 9 percent of residents in households earning more per year.

A similar pattern is evident with respect to being at home or in the

downtown area at night. In addition, people living in urban areas are more likely than those living in either suburban or rural areas to say that they do not feel safe from crime when walking in their neighborhood (19 percent vs. 9 percent or 12 percent) or when downtown at night (30 percent vs. 23 percent or 12 percent). Moreover, far fewer people living in urban areas compared with those living in either suburban or rural areas (65 percent vs. 77 percent and 78 percent) say that they feel *very* safe at home at night.

Feelings of personal efficacy are also important, but only with respect to safety in one's neighborhood or in the downtown area. Specifically, people who think they can have only a small impact, if any, on improving their community are less likely than those who have more confidence to feel secure in their neighborhood (16 percent vs. 11 percent feel unsafe) or when downtown at night (29 percent vs. 20 percent feel unsafe).

Perceptions of Problems Related to Community Development

The survey addressed several other issues related to community development, including questions about the degree to which affordable housing, unemployment, homelessness and dilapidated buildings are a problem in the local community.

The public has varying levels of concern about these issues. Foremost among these is a lack of affordable housing. More than half of adults nationwide (55 percent) indicate this issue is a problem in their community, including one-quarter who say it is a *big* problem.

Still, four in 10 Americans (41 percent) say that a lack of affordable housing is not a problem at all in the community where they live. Similarly, while 54 percent view unemployment as at least a small problem where they live, 41 percent do not consider it a problem at all.

Table 45: Perceptions of Problems Related to Community Development: The Nation

Is the following a big problem, a small problem or not a problem in the community where you live?	Big Problem %	Small Problem %	Not a Problem %
Not enough affordable housing	25	30	41
Unemployment	17	37	41
Homelessness	14	32	52
Abandoned or run-down buildings	11	31	57

The national survey shows relatively moderate levels of public concern about homelessness and dilapidated buildings. While 45 percent of Americans say that homelessness is a problem in their community, many of these people characterize it as only a small problem. Moreover, about half of the public (52 percent) says that homelessness is not a problem at all where they live.

The issue of dilapidated buildings registers a similar level of concern nationally with a majority (57 percent) saying that abandoned or run-down buildings are not a problem at all in their community. And while 42 percent consider this is a problem, only a small number of these people deem it a big problem.

Perceptions of Affordable Housing in Knight Communities

The issue of affordable housing is a concern across the spectrum of Knight communities, from the most prosperous counties to those with the greatest needs. While nationally 55 percent of residents indicate that not enough affordable housing is a problem where they live – including one-quarter who say it is a *big* problem – those figures are substantially higher in Boulder and San Jose.

About nine in 10 adults (87 percent) in Boulder report that a lack of affordable housing is a problem in their community, including 61 percent who say it is a big problem. San Jose residents report even higher levels of concern about this issue. There, too, 87 percent of residents report that a lack of affordable housing is a problem. However, fully three-quarters of San Jose adults report that a lack of affordable housing is a big problem.

The concern among residents of these two communities is warranted, as is concern among adults in Long Beach. In Long Beach, the median housing value is more than $200,000 and residents spend an average of 25 percent of their monthly income on housing costs. While Long Beach residents do not express concern in the same startlingly high shares as those in San Jose, seven in 10 residents say a lack of affordable housing is a problem where they live, including 36 percent who consider it a *big* problem.

These figures are considerably higher than the national benchmarks. Interestingly, residents of some Knight communities in Florida spend a considerably high proportion of their monthly income on home-ownership costs, but none of these counties has an unusually large share of residents reporting that affordable housing is a problem where they live.

Several other Knight communities report somewhat higher levels of concern about the issue of affordable housing when considered in the national context. In Gary, Biloxi and Grand Forks, about two-thirds of residents report that affordable housing is at least a small problem in their community. This level of concern is about 10 percentage points higher than the national figure. Moreover, in each of these three communities, one-third or more of residents characterizes this issue as a *big* problem. Nationally, just 25 percent indicate that not enough affordable housing is a major problem in their community.

TABLE 46: CURRENT COMMUNITY CONDITIONS: HOUSING IN SELECTED KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

Community	Percent of Monthly Income Spent On Homeownership Costs
Long Beach, CA	25.1%
Santa Clara County, CA	24.9%
Palm Beach County, FL	23.4%
Manatee County, FL	23.1%
Miami-Dade County, FL	23.1%
Horry County, SC	23.0%
Boulder County, CO	22.3%
Harrison County, MS	20.9%
Grand Forks County, ND	20.6%
Gary, IN	18.5%
U.S. Average	21.0%

Percentages listed are for 1990

**TABLE 47: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–
PERCEPTIONS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

		Affordable Housing *Percent Who Say...*		*Abandoned/ Run-Down Buildings* *Percent Who Say...*	
Community	Area Surveyed	Problem	Not a Problem	Problem	Not a Problem
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	88	11	37	62
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	87	11	31	68
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	69	27	58	40
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	67	27	79	20
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	65	32	54	44
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	64	30	65	35
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	64	32	50	49
State College, PA	Centre County	64	34	34	65
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	63	31	33	66
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	62	34	38	60
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	59	38	63	36
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	59	36	59	40
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	55	39	45	53
Macon, GA	Bibb County	54	40	61	38
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	54	39	47	51
National		54	41	42	57
Akron, OH	Summit County	54	41	37	62
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	54	37	37	60
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	53	41	53	46
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward	53	39	35	63
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	52	41	45	55
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	52	43	35	64
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	50	42	52	46
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	50	43	46	51
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	49	45	49	51
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	46	44	39	60
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland	46	48	39	59

Perceptions of Dilapidated Buildings in Knight Communities

While most Knight communities mirror the nation with respect to concern about dilapidated buildings, Gary is considerably different. In Gary, eight in 10 adults (79 percent) say that abandoned or run-down buildings are a problem in their community.

More striking is the fact that more than half of these Gary residents (59 percent) say that this issue is a *big* problem where they live. Only 11 percent of people nationwide deem this issue a major problem where they live.

Other communities reporting exceeding the national benchmark for this issue are Macon, Long Beach, Milledgeville, Aberdeen and Philadelphia – a mix of urban and rural communities. In Philadelphia, residents are particularly likely to indicate that this issue is a big problem in their community; about one in three Philadelphia residents (32 percent) express this opinion.

At the other end of the continuum, lower shares of State College and Boulder residents see this as a problem. In Boulder, 31 percent of residents say abandoned or run-down buildings are a problem in their community, including just 2 percent viewing it as a big problem.

The figures from State College are comparable, with just 34 percent of residents reporting that this issue is a problem at all in their community, only 4 percent of whom characterize it as a big problem. It is possible that the strong university presence in both these communities is related to the perception that most buildings are well maintained. However, other college communities, such as Tallahassee, do not stand out in this way.

Perceptions of Homelessness in Knight Communities

Views of the degree to which homelessness is a problem vary considerably across Knight communities. Communities with the highest share of residents indicating that homelessness is a problem where they live tend to have warm or temperate climates, including Long Beach, Tallahassee and San Jose.

Moreover, while nationally just 14 percent of people indicate that homelessness is a *big* problem where they live, cities such as Boca Raton (23 percent), Miami (26 percent), Tallahassee (30 percent), San Jose (31 percent), and Long Beach (40 percent) each have higher shares of residents expressing the same opinion.

**TABLE 48: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–
PERCEPTIONS OF HOMELESSNESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

		Homelessness *Percent Who Say...*		*Unemployment* *Percent Who Say...*	
Community	Area Surveyed	Problem	Not a Problem	Problem	Not a Problem
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	77	21	72	20
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	73	24	46	50
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	68	25	82	13
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	68	30	57	35
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	68	30	47	49
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	62	32	49	47
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	58	39	34	62
Macon, GA	Bibb County	56	39	59	33
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	55	38	74	21
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	54	42	45	45
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	53	40	54	38
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	52	42	43	52
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	51	45	45	50
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	51	44	39	55
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	49	48	62	28
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	49	45	42	54
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	49	44	35	57
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward	48	49	53	38
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	48	49	34	62
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland	47	48	46	47
National		45	52	53	41
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	43	50	59	38
Akron, OH	Summit County	43	54	48	44
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	43	54	37	59
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	42	54	49	44
State College, PA	Centre County	41	56	51	42
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	34	62	55	41

In contrast, the community with the lowest share of residents indicating that homelessness is a problem is Aberdeen, where just 33 percent of residents say that homelessness is a small problem and virtually no residents (2 percent) indicate that this issue is a big problem in their community.

Residents living in other upper Midwest communities such as Duluth or Grand Forks also indicate somewhat lower levels of concern about homelessness than is the case nationally.

Perceptions of Employment in Knight Communities

Despite unprecedented national prosperity, 54 percent of people nationwide say that unemployment is at least a small problem in their community.

While most Knight communities are on par with the national figure, Gary, Long Beach and Milledgeville report considerably higher figures on the issue of unemployment than is the case nationally. About seven in 10 residents in Long Beach and Milledgeville say that unemployment is at least a small problem where they live. In Gary, that figure jumps to eight in 10, including 57 percent who say that unemployment is a big problem in their community.

Other Knight communities have exceptionally low shares of residents who consider unemployment at least a small problem where they live. Only about one-third of adults in Biloxi, Bradenton or Charlotte view the issue this way. St. Paul residents also report lower figures on this issue than is the case nationally, with only 37 percent of adults saying unemployment is a problem in their community.

In addition, when asked to rate job prospects and career opportunities for young people in their community, 44 percent of people nationwide say that their area provides good (32 percent) or excellent (12 percent) career opportunities. But fully half say their community provides only fair (34 percent) or poor (18 percent) career opportunities for young people.

Residents in three Knight communities – Aberdeen, Duluth and State College – were also asked to rate employment opportunities for young people in their local area. State College residents' perceptions correspond to those of the nation.

In both Aberdeen and Duluth, however, residents express more negative opinions of career opportunities than is the case nationally. Specifically, while 44 percent nationally rate the job prospects provided young people in their area good or excellent, that figure drops to 34 percent in Duluth and 25 percent in Aberdeen.

Influences on Perceptions of Issues Related to Community Development

Perceptions of affordable housing, homelessness, dilapidated buildings and unemployment are all influenced by race or ethnicity, income and community type. While these three factors are inextricably linked, each one is independently important to the ways people view these community development issues.

African-Americans and Hispanics, people in low-income brackets and those living in urban areas are generally more likely than others to view each community development issue as a problem. Even when these racial or ethnic minority groups' are as likely as white Americans to view specific issues as at least a small problem, minorities are often more likely than others to deem these issues *big* problems.

For example, not only are African-Americans (55 percent) and Hispanics (56 percent) more likely overall than white Americans (42 percent) to say that homelessness is a problem in their local area, but these two groups are also more likely than white Americans to view it as a major problem.

About three in 10 African-Americans (28 percent) and Hispanics (31 percent) nationwide indicate homelessness is a *big* problem in their community, compared with just 9 percent of white Americans.

As another example, about two-thirds of African-American (68 percent) and Hispanic (64 percent) adults indicate that unemployment is a problem where they live. But the same is true of just half of white adults (50 percent). Moreover, African-Americans and Hispanics are more likely than their white counterparts (32 percent and 35 percent vs. 12 percent, respectively) to say that this issue is a *big* problem.

Similar patterns are evident in terms of income and community type. For instance, perceptions of unemployment are affected by income, with adults in households earning less than $20,000 per year more likely than adults in wealthier households (66 percent vs. 52 percent) to say that this issue is a problem in their area.

While 32 percent of those in households earning less than $20,000 say that unemployment is a big problem in their community, the same is true of just 14 percent of adults in households with higher incomes.

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As an example of the effects of urban scale, viewing abandoned or run-down buildings as a problem is strongly influenced by the community type – urban, suburban or rural – in which adults live. About half of those living in urban (50 percent) or rural (52 percent) areas say this issue is a problem in their community. Just one-third (32 percent) of suburban residents express the same opinion.

A few other background characteristics are also important but only in relation to specific community development issues. Age, for example, influences perceptions of affordable housing and homelessness. Just 39 percent of residents 65 and older consider a lack of affordable housing a problem in their local area, compared with 58 percent of younger residents.

Similarly, adults under age 50 are more likely than older residents (48 percent vs. 40 percent) to say that homelessness is a problem in their local area.

Education is important only to perceptions of employment issues. One in five people who have not attended college (22 percent) report that unemployment is a *big* problem in their community, compared with just 11 percent of those with at least some college experience.

In the same way, adults who have attended college are more likely than those who have not (53 percent vs. 36 percent) to say that their community offers good or excellent career opportunities for young people.

Finally, adults who do not own their homes and parents of children under age 18 are more likely than others to view affordable housing as a problem. Two-thirds of renters, compared with half of home owners, say that a lack of affordable housing is a problem where they live.

Moreover, 36 percent of renters consider this issue is a *big* problem in their local area, compared with just 19 percent of home owners. Likewise, fully six in 10 parents versus about half of non-parents (51 percent) say that not enough affordable housing is at least a small problem in their community.

A recent production of "Twelve Angry Jurors" at the Grand Strand Senior Center in Myrtle Beach is just one piece of evidence of the area's burgeoning arts scene.

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Chapter 7

VITALITY OF CULTURAL LIFE

Why Knight Foundation Cares

Aberdeen, S.D. (Brown County)
Akron, Ohio (Summit County)
Biloxi, Miss. (Harrison County)
Boca Raton, Fla. (Palm Beach County)
Boulder, Colo. (Boulder County)
Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee County)
Charlotte, N.C. (Mecklenburg County)
Columbia, S.C. (Richland County)
Columbus, Ga. (Muscogee County)
Detroit, Mich. (Wayne County)
Duluth, Minn. (St. Louis County)
Fort Wayne, Ind. (Allen County)
Gary, Ind. (Lake County)
Grand Forks, N.D. (Grand Forks County)
Lexington, Ky. (Fayette County)
Long Beach, Calif. (Los Angeles County)
Macon, Ga. (Bibb County)
Miami, Fla. (Miami-Dade County)
Milledgeville, Ga. (Baldwin County)
Myrtle Beach, S.C. (Horry County)
Philadelphia, Pa. (Philadelphia County)
St. Paul, Minn. (Ramsey County)
San Jose, Calif. (Santa Clara County)
State College, Pa. (Centre County)
Tallahassee, Fla. (Leon County)
Wichita, Kan. (Sedgwick County)

The arts improve our lives and enrich our communities. Knight Foundation has invested more than $100 million in arts and cultural institutions over the past half-century.

The Foundation's commitment to cultural life is broad. We support the creation of new work, increased access for new and underserved audiences, and efforts that strengthen arts organizations. We seek to support a high caliber of artistic expression. Ultimately, we want to provide all residents access to a wide variety of artistic and cultural pursuits, and we want to nourish creativity in all residents.

Each of us responds in a personal way to artistic expression and cultural engagement. Knight grants made to organizations in our communities reflect this variety. The thread that ties together these activities is the enduring commitment to improve the quality of life in 26 communities where the Knight brothers worked. We believe the value of arts and cultural offerings is greatest when they help contribute to the overall well-being of communities.

Toward this end, a recent $50,000 grant to Discovery Place in Charlotte, N.C., aims to use an interactive children's exhibition to combat issues of prejudice and discrimination. Another example is a $25,000 grant to Dramatic Results in Long Beach, Calif., for an arts-based academic and life-skills program for at-risk elementary schoolchildren.

Knight-funded projects also highlight the power of the arts as tools for engagement within and between communities. Civic engagement, for example, is the focus of EdVenture, a Columbia, S.C., children's museum. The museum is using a $200,000 grant for interactive exhibits providing opportunities for children to cast votes about topical issues and learn the role of public opinion.

The Foundation encourages collaborative projects, especially those with the ability to cut across traditional boundaries. In Long Beach, the Public Corporation for the Arts received a three-year $525,000 grant to create the Arts Marketing Lab to address the marketing needs of more than 80 cultural organizations. This is part of an effort to replicate a similar collaborative marketing effort the Foundation supported in Charlotte.

Two Knight Foundation initiatives illustrate our commitment to achieving a significant, measurable impact on arts engagement. The "Magic of Music" symphony orchestra initiative is helping 15 U.S. orchestras explore ways to strengthen the connection between musicians and their audiences. And over the past five years, our Museum Loan Network

has made 148 grants enabling nearly 200 museums to cooperate in bringing works of art out of storage into new exhibition halls. This program bridges the gap between the nation's major museums and smaller institutions.

One thing we learned from the Community Indicators project is that race and ethnicity are a sharp dividing line for attitudes about local arts and culture opportunities. In every Knight community where there is enough racial and ethnic diversity to make comparisons across groups, larger shares of African-American adults say a lack of arts activities in the community is a big problem, compared with white adults providing this response. This relationship is robust, and it is usually evident even when we take into account things like education, income and arts attendance. In the future, as Knight Foundation seeks to integrate the arts into the fabric of civic life, we must seek explanations for this marked difference between racial and ethnic groups.

Current Community Conditions: Vitality of Cultural Life

Indicators For Vitality of Cultural Life:

1) Types of Arts and Culture Organizations

- Number of Arts and Culture Organizations
- Types of Organizations Identified
- Percentage of Organizations With $500,000 or More in Annual Expenses
- Number of Arts and Culture Organizations per 10,000 Residents
- Assets of Arts and Culture Organizations Per Capita

2) Finances of Arts and Culture Organizations

- Percentage of Arts and Culture Organizations Reporting a Deficit
- Median Deficit of Arts and Culture Organizations
- Median Surplus of Arts and Culture Organizations

Highlights

- The Knight communities vary widely in their arts and culture resources. Some communities have relatively high overall* numbers of arts and culture organizations, high numbers of organizations per resident, high numbers of organizations or services across disciplines, and few organizations reporting budget deficits compared to other communities and to U.S. averages. Other communities, in contrast, show below-average numbers in these areas or large numbers of organizations in debt.
- Three Knight communities – Ramsey, Philadelphia and Mecklenburg counties – consistently rank high compared with other communities and U.S. averages in terms of the scale and scope of their arts and culture organizations.
- Two Knight communities – Baldwin and Lake counties (Gary) – consistently rank low on indicators of arts and culture, specifically lacking moderate to large organizations, a variety of disciplines and adequate spending per resident.

* The statistics included in this section primarily capture organizations within the incorporated arts and culture sector. Many local arts and culture offerings are provided by small arts organizations, informal groups and arts programs embedded within non-arts institutions. Due to the nature of these activities, they are more difficult to capture and are thus undercounted in the statistics. In the analysis of cultural organizations, we examined Los Angeles County and Lake County, Ind., instead of the communities of Long Beach and Gary.

Types of Arts Organizations

Why This is Important: Examining the types of arts and culture organizations in a community provides measures of the size and variety of the arts sector. A comparison of the types of arts and culture organizations across Knight communities helps to identify geographic areas that may offer fewer opportunities to participate in the arts.

Key Findings

- More than 500 arts and culture organizations were identified in Miami-Dade, Wayne and Philadelphia counties. Even though many organizations were identified in these communities, more than half of the residents in each say that there are not enough arts and cultural activities.
- Fewer than 50 arts and culture organizations were identified in Bibb, Centre, Manatee, Brown and Baldwin counties.
- Most Knight communities have all nine types of organizations identified in the study. They include art museums and galleries; other museums; theater; dance; music; arts education; multidisciplinary and arts service; historic preservation; and other arts and culture organizations.
- Muscogee, Lake, Grand Forks, Centre and Horry counties each fall short by one or two types of organization. Brown County has only six of nine and Baldwin has only four.
- With the exception of Lake County, communities with less variety in the types of arts and culture organizations identified also have small populations. Frequently, dance and arts education organizations are the types not identified in a community. In Baldwin County, none of the following types was identified: arts education; dance; music; theater; other arts and culture.
- Approximately 30 percent of organizations in Mecklenburg, Philadelphia, Ramsey and Palm Beach counties have $500,000 or more in annual expenses, much higher than the national average of 16 percent.
- Leon, Manatee, St. Louis, Bibb and Boulder counties have a lower percentage of organizations with $500,000 or more in annual expenses than the U.S. overall (16 percent).
- Grand Forks, Boulder and Richland counties have the highest density of arts and culture organizations (greater than 7/10,000 residents). Even with 13 arts and culture organizations per 10,000

residents, 60 percent of residents of Grand Forks County believe that there are not enough local arts and culture opportunities.

- The Knight communities with the lowest density of arts and culture organizations (fewer than 2/10,000 residents) are Manatee, Lake and Muscogee counties.

TABLE 49: NUMBER OF ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS (1998)

Note: Arts and culture is broadly defined and includes museums and performing arts, visual arts, arts education, history, humanities, cultural, craft, multidisciplinary and arts service organizations.

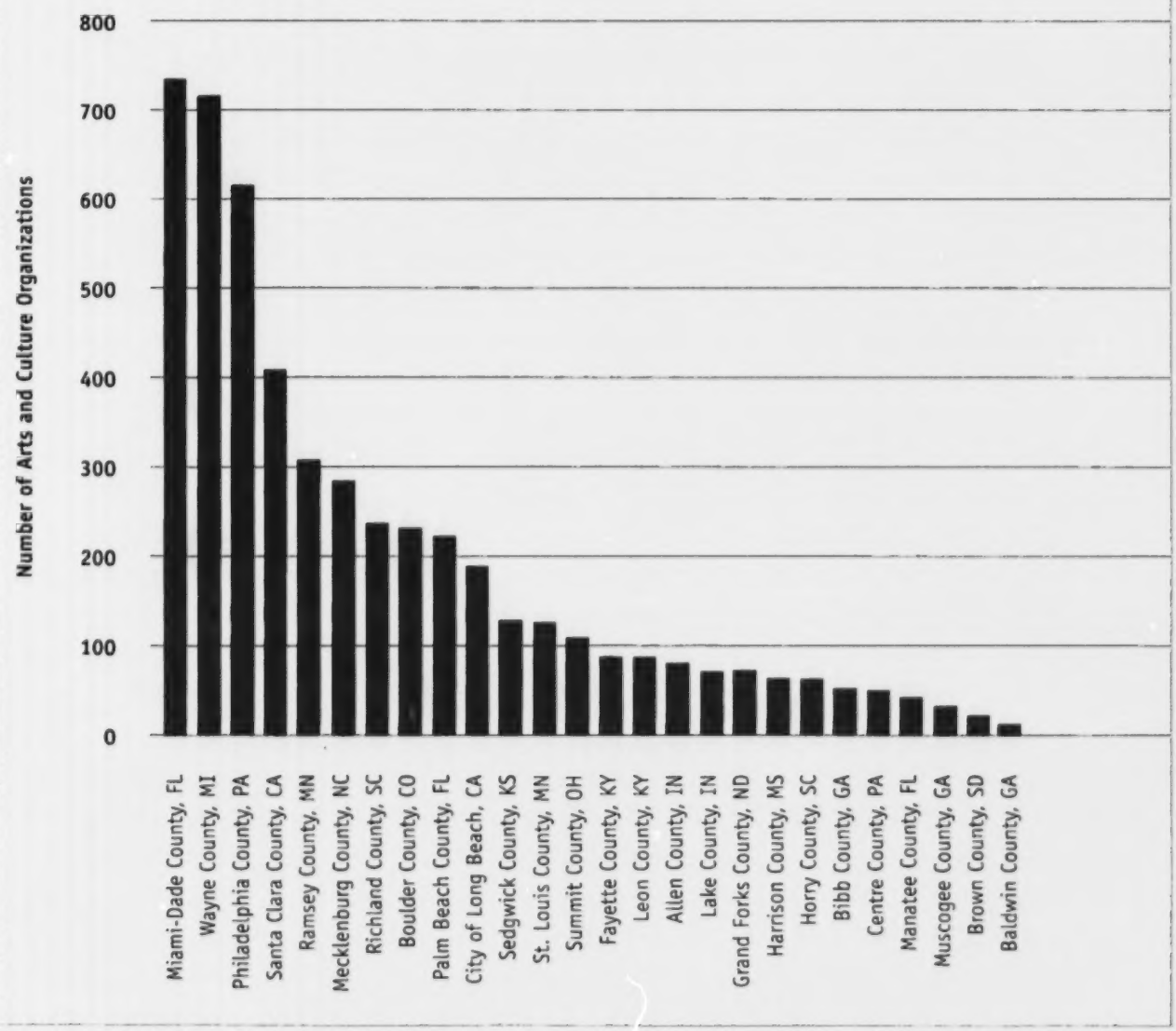
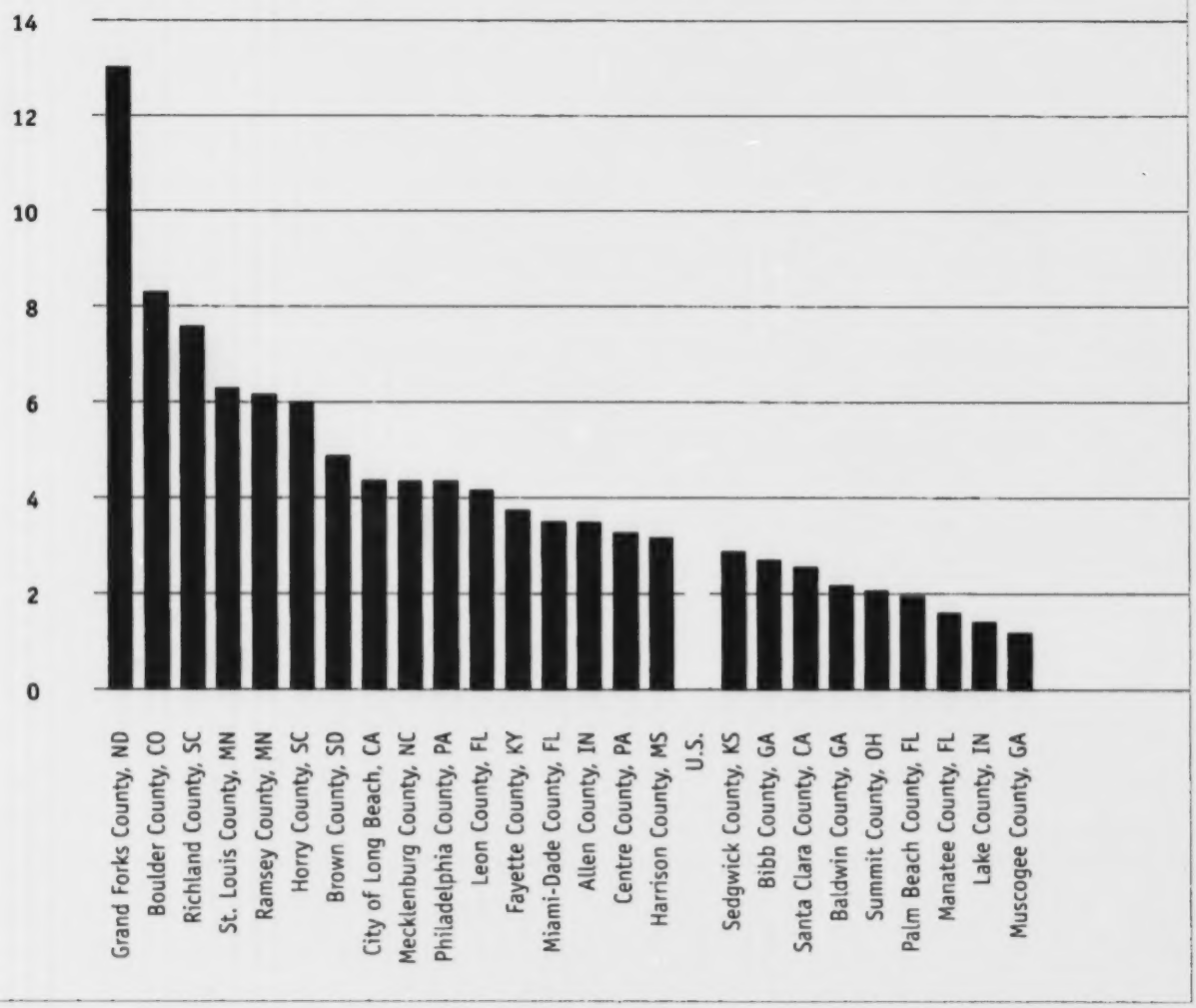


TABLE 50: NUMBER OF ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS PER 10,000 RESIDENTS (1998)



Finances of Arts Organizations

Why This is Important: Examining the finances of arts and culture organizations provides quantitative measures of the stability and financial capacity of the arts sector.*

Key Findings

- The majority of Knight communities have lower assets of arts and culture organizations per capita than the U.S. overall.
- Ramsey, Philadelphia, Muscogee, Palm Beach, Mecklenburg, Wayne and Bibb counties have higher assets of arts and culture organizations per capita than the U.S. ($148 per person). Ramsey and Philadelphia counties have particularly high assets per capita ($1,261 and $836 respectively).
- Richland, Horry, Baldwin, and Lake counties (Gary) have the lowest assets of arts and culture organizations per capita (less than $25).
- Half of the Knight communities have a higher percentage of arts organizations reporting a deficit than the U.S. overall (33 percent).
- Richland, Sedgwick and Boulder counties have the lowest percentage of arts and culture organizations reporting a deficit (25 percent or less).
- More than one-third or more of arts and culture organizations in Miami-Dade, Ramsey, Santa Clara and St. Louis counties report deficits.
- The median deficit of arts and culture organizations in Philadelphia, Palm Beach, Ramsey, Miami-Dade and Santa Clara counties is much larger than the U.S. overall ($9,264). (Many counties could not be evaluated on this indicator as they have few organizations reporting deficits.)
- Most Knight communities have arts and culture organizations with a median surplus higher than the U.S. average of $17,389.
- The Knight communities with the highest median surplus of arts and culture organizations (more than $25,000) include Summit, Mecklenburg, Philadelphia and Ramsey counties.

* Financial data are only available for nonprofit organizations, so public and for profit arts organizations are not included. Also, small nonprofit organizations (less than $25,000 in gross receipts) are not included as they are not required to file financial information with the I.R.S.

Survey Findings

Perceptions of Arts and Culture

Community support of nonprofit arts and cultural activities is often considered an important dimension of overall community health. Perceptions and behaviors related to arts and cultural activities are fairly consistent across the Knight communities. Further, the Knight communities generally reflect the nation on these issues. This is especially true with respect to involvement with arts and cultural groups through volunteerism or charitable contributions. While the cross-community variations are minimal, there are dramatic within-community differences. Subgroups living within communities differ consistently on their views of local arts and culture issues, especially local arts and cultural resources.

Race or ethnicity, in particular, has a profound effect on the way people view arts and cultural resources. African-American and other nonwhite adults are more likely than white Americans to perceive local resources as inadequate. This pattern is evident nationally as well as in Knight communities with diverse populations. Even when other background characteristics are taken into account, this wide gap remains. And while nationwide attendance of nonprofit arts or cultural events is similar across racial or ethnic subgroups, in many of the diverse Knight communities, adults' likelihood of attending cultural events is influenced by race or ethnicity. In these instances, white residents are generally more likely than African-Americans or Hispanics to attend such events.

Further inquiries are needed to understand why people with different racial or ethnic backgrounds have such divergent views of arts and cultural issues. There is probably more than one explanation. In any case, these differences in perspective mean that communities with diverse populations – especially those where more than half of the population is racial or ethnic minorities – face more challenges than relatively homogeneous communities.

Other factors, of course, shape perceptions and behavior related to arts and cultural resources and involvement with activities. These include typical demographic characteristics such as age, education and income. The contextual information on Knight communities, particularly information describing the nonprofit arts organizations in Knight communities, reveals the importance of considering public attitudes and attendance in light of existing community conditions.

For example, the work shows that communities with small populations or in rural areas tend to have less variety in the types of arts and cul-

tural organizations, as compared with those that have moderate to large populations. The amount and variety of arts opportunities certainly affect the possibility of citizen engagement with the arts. Milledgeville and Aberdeen are examples of communities where attendance, supply and variety are low.

This contextual information helps shine light on the way perceptions of arts and cultural activities fit – or do not fit – within the existing arts resources in any given community. This knowledge points leaders of the nonprofit arts sector toward concrete areas for improvement in their communities.

Perceptions of Arts and Cultural Resources Nationally

Americans are generally pleased with the job performance of the cultural institutions asked about in the survey. They tend to indicate that they would like to have more of these resources from which to choose. Eight in 10 residents say the public libraries in their local area do an excellent (31 percent) or a good (48 percent) job serving their community. In contrast, just one in eight residents rate the job performance of local libraries as fair (10 percent) or poor (2 percent). The remaining tenth say they cannot rate these institutions.

But the survey suggests that many Americans are not satisfied with the quantity of cultural resources. Forty-six percent of residents say that not enough arts or cultural activities is a problem in the community where they live, including one in five (19 percent) who say it is a *big* problem. Still, 48 percent indicate this is not a problem at all in their local community.

When the 6 percent of those who say they don't know how much of a problem this is in their local community are removed from the equation, the nation is divided in nearly equal halves: 49 percent say that not enough arts and cultural activities is a problem while 51 percent say it is not.

Perceptions of Arts and Cultural Resources in Knight Communities

Performance Ratings of Local Public Libraries

Opinions about local public libraries are relatively consistent across the Knight communities and generally more positive than the national view. For example, while nationally only 79 percent give their local public libraries a positive performance rating, several Knight communities have substantially higher shares of residents who say their local public libraries do an excellent or a good job.

Nine in 10 people living in Fort Wayne and Charlotte give their local libraries a positive rating. And seven other communities also have significantly larger shares of residents who give their libraries high marks: Columbia, Lexington, Akron, St. Paul, Duluth, Macon and Tallahassee. Only Detroit and Miami-Dade County (74 percent) have substantially lower shares of adults, compared with the nation, who say their local public libraries do an excellent or a good job serving their community.

Library usage corresponds somewhat to opinions about these institutions. In communities such as Fort Wayne and Charlotte where the public has an extremely positive view of the libraries, circulation is relatively high compared with the national average of 7.6 transactions per resident. Conversely, in Detroit where public opinion is most critical of the local public libraries, library circulation is at 1.6 transactions per resident.

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TABLE 51: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–
JOB PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY USAGE IN THE LOCAL AREA

Community	Area Surveyed	Percent Who Give Positive Rating	Total Library Circulation*
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	92	13.6
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	90	9.5
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	87	7.6
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	87	9.5****
Akron, OH	Summit County	86	6.7
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	85	3.6
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	84	15.5
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	83	6.8
Macon, GA	Bibb County	83	8.4***
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	83	9.4
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	81	4.9
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	80	7.6
National		79	7.6
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	79	8.9
State College, PA	Centre County	77	11.5
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	77	5.1
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	76	5.7
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	76	6.0
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	76	8.1
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	76	3.1**
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	75	4.4
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	71	1.6
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	N/A	8.4***
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	N/A	5.8
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	N/A	5.8
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	N/A	17.1
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	N/A	3.4

* Transactions per capita for 1996. Library districts for the county or city unless noted otherwise.
** Transactions for Chattahoochee Valley Regional library district, including Muscogee County.
*** Transactions for Middle Georgia Regional library district, including Bibb and Baldwin counties.
**** Transactions for Richland County library district.

Given such high marks across the communities, very little distinguishes one community's ratings from the next. Nationwide, however, job performance ratings of local public libraries are influenced somewhat by race or ethnicity with African-Americans (85 percent) and white Americans (79 percent) more likely than Hispanics (69 percent) to give positive marks to libraries.

In the same way, people who completed the survey in Spanish (and are presumably Spanish-language dependent), are more likely than people who did the survey in English to give negative ratings to the public libraries (27 percent vs. 11 percent). As a result, communities with diverse populations that include large numbers of Hispanics – namely Miami and San Jose – are more likely to have lower percentages of residents giving a positive rating to libraries when compared with ethnically homogeneous areas.

Not Enough Arts or Cultural Activities as a Community Problem

By comparison, concern among residents of Knight communities about the quantity of arts and cultural activities is more widespread and is evident in communities that differ in a number of ways, including diversity of the population and urban scale.

While 46 percent of people nationally say that not enough arts or cultural activities is at least a small problem, several Knight communities show significantly higher shares of residents who express this view. There is an especially high level of concern in Gary. There, half of the residents say a lack of arts or cultural activities is a problem.

Milledgeville, Philadelphia, Miami-Dade County (51 percent in that county alone), Biloxi and Lexington also have figures that exceed the national benchmark on this issue. Moreover, in each of these communities except Lexington, about one-quarter of the residents consider this issue a *big* problem.

There are, however, an equal number of Knight communities at the other end of the continuum. At least six in 10 residents in St. Paul, State College and Boulder report that a lack of arts or cultural activities where they live is not a problem at all. Similar majorities give this view in Boca Raton, Bradenton and Fort Wayne. In comparison, 48 percent of the public nationwide say a lack of arts or cultural activities is not a problem in their local area.

TABLE 52: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–
LACK OF ARTS OR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

		Percent Who Say...		
Community	Area Surveyed	Big Problem	Small Problem	Not a Problem
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	50	26	20
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	29	32	33
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	29	27	39
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	23	32	39
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	23	26	42
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	21	24	46
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	20	31	45
Macon, GA	Bibb County	20	28	45
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	20	27	45
National		19	27	48
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	18	27	48
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	17	31	47
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	16	36	40
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	16	31	45
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	16	29	49
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	15	37	40
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	15	37	42
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	14	27	56
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	13	29	52
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	13	28	52
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	12	31	52
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	12	28	54
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	11	28	55
State College, PA	Centre County	11	26	61
Akron, OH	Summit County	10	31	52
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	8	30	60
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	7	24	64

Influences on Perceptions of Arts and Cultural Resources

A Race/Ethnicity Divide

With the exception of Lexington, Knight communities that show high levels of concern about a lack of arts or cultural activities tend to have large racial or ethnic minority populations. Communities that have notably high precentages of residents who say this is not a problem tend to be relatively homogenous in terms of race or ethnicity.

There are several communities that mirror the nation in terms of overall perceptions of a lack of arts or cultural activities as a problem. Yet this broad view distorts how consistently – and how widely – viewpoints for white Americans and non-white Americans differ on this issue. At the national level, 56 percent of African-Americans, versus 45 percent of white Americans, say that not enough arts or cultural activities is at least a small problem in their community. Furthermore, both African-Americans and Hispanics nationwide are more likely than white Americans to say this is a *big* problem.

Table 53: Perceptions of Lack of Arts or Cultural Activities as a Problem by Race: The Nation

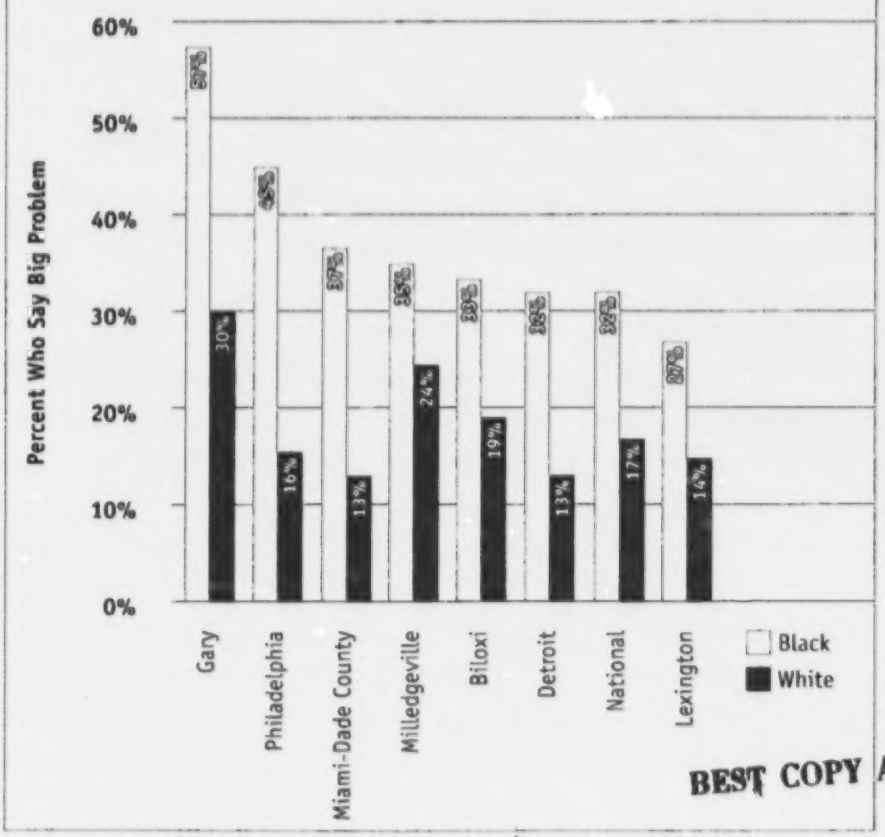
	Total	African-American	White	Hispanic
	%	%	%	%
Not enough arts or cultural activities–Is this a big problem, a small problem or not a problem in the community where you live?				
Total problem	46	56	45	50
Big problem	19	32	17	26
Small problem	27	24	28	24
Not a problem	48	37	50	45
Don't know/Refused	6	7	6	6

In addition, in every Knight community that has a significant minority population, race or ethnicity helps distinguish the way people view arts and cultural resources.

In each community, African-Americans are more likely to consider a lack of arts or cultural activities a big problem. The disparity between perceptions of African-American residents and white residents is especially striking in Gary and Philadelphia. A similar pattern is evident in Miami (Miami-Dade County) between Hispanic and white residents, and in San Jose between both Hispanic and Asian residents and white residents.

This pattern raises many questions, including: How do people interpret the words "arts" and "culture?" Is this an issue of awareness? Is this an issue of access? Is this, in fact, an issue of quantity? Or quality? Do people of different racial or ethnic backgrounds experience arts and cultural activities differently?

TABLE 54: NOT ENOUGH ARTS OR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES? (SELECT COMMUNITIES)



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The local survey in the Detroit area explored a few of these questions. Adults in Detroit were asked a series of questions aimed at identifying what residents perceive as benefits or barriers to attending nonprofit arts and cultural activities in the Detroit area.

In the end, of the five potentially influential attitudes measured, the only attitude that is significantly related to actual attendance is how important it is that an event reflect one's own racial or ethnic background. Specifically, Detroit residents who feel it is *very* important that their own background be reflected in such activities *and* those who say this aspect of an event is *completely unimportant* are less likely to go to arts and cultural events, compared with residents whose feelings fall somewhere between the two extreme positions.

For example, 75 percent of those who say that it is somewhat important or only a little important that arts and cultural events reflect their own racial or ethnic heritage attended at least one type of event in the past year. That percentage decreases to 64 percent among those who say this aspect of an event is not at all important to their decision to attend arts and cultural activities, and down to 56 percent among those who say this aspect is very important to their decision.

Race is the factor most strongly related to this attitude in Detroit. African-American residents were far more likely than white residents to say this aspect of a performance or an exhibit is very important to them.

TABLE 55: IMPORTANCE OF RACIAL/ETHNIC REPRESENTATION IN ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (WAYNE COUNTY ONLY)

	Total %	African-American %	White %
If you are looking for an arts or cultural event to attend, how important is it that the event reflect your racial or ethnic background?			
Very important	18	35	7
Somewhat important	22	28	18
Not too important	17	11	20
Not at all important	41	24	54
Don't know/Refused	2	2	2

While this is an important difference to be aware of when selecting the types of activities to support in diverse communities such as Detroit, it also may help explain the arts-participation gap between racial or ethnic minorities and white residents that exists in other significantly diverse communities. More extensive discussion of these findings is included in Knight Foundation's report on the Detroit survey.

In regard to perceptions of local public libraries, as noted above, race or ethnicity is the only factor that influences ratings of these institutions.

Other Factors Related to Perceptions of Cultural Resources

In addition to race or ethnicity, income and community type influence perceptions of arts and cultural resources at the national level. In terms of income, fully three in 10 Americans in households earning less than $20,000 annually say this issue is a *big* problem in their community. Just 18 percent of those in households earning $20,000 or more share this viewpoint. In contrast, half of those in households earning at least $20,000 per year (49 percent) say this is not a problem at all compared with 40 percent in households earning less.

Similarly, people living in suburban areas (53 percent) are more likely than those living in urban or rural areas (45 percent and 39 percent, respectively) to report that not enough arts and cultural activities is a not a problem at all in their local area. Conversely, 26 percent of rural residents and 21 percent of urban dwellers say that this is a big problem where they live, compared with just 15 percent of suburbanites.

While race or ethnicity, income and community type are strongly correlated, each of these factors is important to the way people view arts and cultural resources in their local area.

Age is also related to perceptions of a lack of arts or cultural activities. Adults under age 50 are more likely than those 50 and older to see this as a problem (54 percent vs. 33 percent). Moreover, there is a compelling difference between the adults 18 to 29 years of age compared with adults 30 and older (60 percent age 18–29 say it's a problem vs. 43 percent 30 and older).

Notably, perceptions of a lack of adequate arts or cultural activities in one's community are unaffected by involvement with such activities. People who do not attend, volunteer for or contribute to arts or cultural activities or organizations are no more likely than those who are engaged in such activities to perceive this issue as a problem.

Attendance at Nonprofit Arts and Cultural Activities Nationally

Overall, two-thirds of Americans (65 percent) attended at least one nonprofit arts or cultural event in the year preceding the interview.

Specifically, 45 percent say they attended a play, dance or other theater performance. Roughly the same share (44 percent) say they visited an art museum over this period. About four in 10 people (39 percent) report that they visited a science or history museum in the past year, while just 19 percent say they went to hear a symphony orchestra during that time.

Americans tend to participate in nonprofit arts or cultural events just one to two times per year. Still, a sizable minority attend the theater or places that display artwork more frequently. Specifically, 21 percent of adults report seeing some type of theater performance on three or more occasions in the past year, and 14 percent report visiting an art museum or gallery this often.

In contrast, in the 12 months preceding the interview, only 10 percent visited a science or history museum three or more times and only 4 percent attended the symphony this often.

Table 56: Frequency of Attendance at Nonprofit Cultural Activities in the Past Year: The Nation

In the past 12 months about how many times have you. . .	*Number of Times Attended*				
	0	1	2	3-5	6+
	%	%	%	%	%
Attended a play, dance or other theater performance	54	12	12	15	6
Gone to an art museum, or other place that displays art work	56	20	10	9	5
Gone to a science or history museum	61	19	10	8	2
Gone to hear a symphony orchestra	81	10	5	2	2

Attendance of Nonprofit Arts and Cultural Activities in Knight Communities

Overall attendance of nonprofit arts and cultural activities varies somewhat across Knight communities but is generally on par with the nation. Only two of the 26 Knight communities – Milledgeville and Macon – post attendance rates substantially lower than the national figure.

There are, however, several communities with figures substantially higher than the national figure. While 65 percent of adults nationwide attended at least one type of nonprofit arts or cultural activity in the past year, that figure rises to 87 percent in Boulder and 81 percent in St. Paul. Figures for Tallahassee, Long Beach, San Jose, Columbia, State College, Charlotte, Boca Raton and Broward County (72 percent) also exceed the national benchmark by a considerable margin.

In terms of attendance at specific types of nonprofit arts or cultural activities, the same communities tend to top the rankings and surpass the national benchmarks. Boulder, for instance, ranks first for overall attendance and it also shows the largest shares of adults attending all but one (science and history museums) of the specific types of activities asked about in the survey.

There are, however, a few notable anomalies. For example, while attendance of arts or cultural events by Fort Wayne residents is generally consistent with the nation and other typical Knight communities, 25 percent of those living in this community attended a symphony orchestra concert in the past year. Nationwide, only 19 percent report symphony attendance during that period. There are similar incongruities in other communities including, but not limited to, theater attendance in Myrtle Beach and art museum and gallery attendance in Philadelphia.

No single demographic factor differentiates Knight communities with exceptionally high levels of attendance from communities with relatively low attendance rates. Higher-attendance communities tend to differ by region, urban scale and the racial or ethnic diversity of the population. This suggests that there are several factors operating differently across the communities that impact residents' likelihood to attend such events.

TABLE 57: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–ATTENDANCE OF NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

		Percent Who Have Gone at Least Once in Past Year				
Community	Area Surveyed	Any Nonprofit Activity	Play, Dance Other Theater Performance	Art Museum/ Art Gallery	Science/ History Museum	Symphony Orchestra
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	87	66	63	56	32
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	81	61	56	64	23
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	79	54	58	54	20
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	77	55	58	43	27
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	77	53	57	53	22
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland	74	52	51	44	19
State College, PA	Centre County	74	52	53	36	18
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	74	50	51	42	30
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	73	56	51	42	27
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	70	54	42	29	16
Akron, OH	Summit County	69	50	40	36	23
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	69	50	46	37	22
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward	69	49	46	35	20
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	69	48	49	36	19
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	69	48	45	35	23
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	69	45	41	41	25
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	68	53	40	29	17
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	67	49	43	25	14
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	67	49	48	38	17
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	66	49	43	37	14
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	65	51	34	36	12
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	65	49	39	32	19
National		65	46	44	39	19
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	63	43	40	31	11
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	63	40	43	34	19
Macon, GA	Bibb County	59	43	37	34	14
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	56	40	33	28	8

Influences on Attendance of Nonprofit Arts and Cultural Activities

At the national level, attendance of nonprofit arts events is primarily influenced by age, education and income. And in many Knight communities, these factors are also important to whether people attend such activities.

Despite the conventional wisdom about aging arts audiences, adults 65 and older are less likely than younger people to say that they attended at least one nonprofit arts or cultural activity in the 12 months preceding the interview (49 percent vs. 68 percent under age 65 have done any nonprofit arts activity).

Specifically, more adults under age 65, compared with older adults, report that they visited an art museum or gallery (46 percent vs. 32 percent) or a science or history museum (43 percent vs. 18 percent) in that period.

With respect to art museums and galleries, the age pattern is actually slightly different. Adults 30 to 64 years of age (49 percent) are more likely than both older adults (32 percent) and younger ones (38 percent) to report seeing an exhibit.

Similar patterns emerge for attendance of performing arts events. Adults under age 65 are more likely than those older (48 percent vs. 31 percent) to say they attended a play, dance, or other theater performance, but there are no differences with respect to symphony attendance.

The more formal education people have, the more likely it is they attend nonprofit arts and cultural events. College graduates are more likely than all others to attend each type of activity included in the survey. Likewise, people with at least some college but no degree are more likely than those who have not attended college at all to attend such activities.

TABLE 58: ATTENDANCE OF NONPROFIT ARTS/CULTURAL ACTIVITIES BY EDUCATION: THE NATION

	Less Than H.S. %	H.S. Graduate %	Some College %	College Graduate %
Attended a play... theater performance	27	33	54	69
Gone to art museum/gallery	20	36	49	67
Gone to science/history museum	15	31	45	63
Gone to symphony orchestra	8	12	21	34

In terms of income, adults in households with annual incomes of at least $60,000 are more likely than those in lower income brackets (83 percent vs. 61 percent) to report attending at least one type of nonprofit arts or cultural activity in the past year.

Regarding specific types of activities, more affluent Americans compared with those in households earning less than $60,000 report attending a theater performance (64 percent vs. 41 percent) or symphony orchestra (34 percent vs. 15 percent), or visiting an art museum or gallery (62 percent vs. 40 percent) or science/history museum (58 percent vs. 35 percent).

Perhaps due to a lack of resources, people living in rural areas are less likely than those living in urban or suburban areas to have attended at least one type of arts or cultural activity in the past year (55 percent vs. 66 percent urban and 69 percent suburban). Milledgeville and Aberdeen, two of Knight's rural communities, both have relatively fewer nonprofit arts or cultural organizations; also, there is less diversity among the groups that do exist. With respect to specific types of activities, rural residents are less likely than both urban and suburban residents to have gone to an art museum or gallery, a science or history museum, or a symphony orchestra in the past year. In terms of theater performances, however, only urban residents are more likely than rural residents (48 percent vs. 39 percent) to report attending a show in the past year.

Parental status is also related. Parents of children under age 18 are more likely than non-parents to have attended at least one type of nonprofit arts or cultural activity in the past year. In particular, 48 percent of parents (versus 34 percent non-parents) visited a science or history museum during that time.

Religiosity also influences attendance of nonprofit arts or cultural activities. People who attend worship services at least once a month are more likely than those who attend services less often or not at all to report attending at least one type of activity in the past year (69 percent vs. 61 percent). In terms of specific activities, regular worshipers are more likely than others to say they attended a theater performance (51 percent vs. 39 percent).

Finally, race or ethnicity generally is unrelated to attendance of nonprofit arts or cultural activities. One exception: white Americans are more likely than African-Americans to report that they visited a science or history museum (41 percent vs. 28 percent) in the preceding year.

Volunteerism and Charitable Giving for Arts and Culture Organizations

Involvement with arts and cultural activities is commonly considered in terms of attendance at performances or exhibits. Yet some Americans support these activities in other ways. They contribute by giving their time, expertise or money to organizations that provide arts and cultural events, education or services in their community. While this type of community service may seem limited compared with others, it is often the activities of such organizations that augment the work of critical community institutions such as public schools. Often, these organizations also provide quality social opportunities for residents, especially children.

Involvement with Arts and Cultural Organizations Nationally

A small segment of American adults supports arts and cultural activities by volunteering or contributing money or personal belongings. Fourteen percent of Americans say they volunteered for an arts or a cultural group, such as a museum, theater or music group, during the 12 months preceding the interview. That is a relatively low percentage compared with the share of people who report volunteering with, for example, a program that helps disadvantaged people (31 percent), a youth development program (29 percent), or a neighborhood group (26 percent).

In the same way, one in six Americans (17 percent) say they made a contribution to an arts or a cultural organization in 1998. This puts such organizations at the bottom of the list for charitable contributions for that year, with the percentage saying they made a donation well below such figures for donations to organizations such as those that help poor elderly or homeless people (61 percent), youth development programs (46 percent), or educational organizations (46 percent).

Involvement with Arts and Cultural Organizations in Knight Communities

Involvement with arts and cultural organizations is fairly consistent across Knight communities and generally on par with the nation. None of the 26 Knight communities shows volunteerism rates for arts and cultural organizations substantially lower than the national figure of 14 percent. Moreover, with 20 percent of its residents reporting that they volunteered with such groups, Boulder is the only community with a volunteerism rate exceeding the national benchmark.

In terms of charitable contributions to arts and cultural organizations, most Knight communities post rates similar to the national figure of

17 percent. But Boulder, Charlotte and Long Beach report notably higher shares of residents donating to such organizations in 1998.

St. Paul and Boca Raton also have somewhat larger shares of residents who made a contribution in that year. On the other hand, Gary and Milledgeville show somewhat lower shares of contributors to arts and cultural organizations when considered in the national context.

Still, with so little variance across communities, there are no strong demographic patterns in relation to communities that rise above the national benchmarks for involvement with arts and cultural activities or for those that fall below those marks.

Influences on Involvement with Arts and Cultural Organizations

Several factors, including education and income, affect involvement with arts and cultural programs or organizations. Yet race or ethnicity, which has such a strong influence on perceptions of arts and cultural resources, has no bearing on reports of volunteerism or charitable giving for arts and cultural organizations.

People who have attended college are more likely than those who have no college experience to volunteer for arts or cultural groups (20 percent vs. 8 percent). With respect to charitable giving for such organizations, college graduates are distinct from all others: 32 percent of college graduates versus 12 percent of those with less education report contributing to an arts or cultural organization in 1998.

Similarly, people whose annual household income is at least $60,000 are more likely than those in lower income brackets (22 percent vs. 12 percent) to volunteer for an arts or cultural group.

The income break is slightly different in regard to likely contributors, with those whose annual household income is at least $40,000 being more likely than adults who earn less annually (23 percent vs. 10 percent) to make a donation to an arts or cultural organization. Age also influences involvement, with older Americans more likely than those under age 50 (25 percent vs. 13 percent) to contribute to an arts or cultural organization.

Finally, people who attend arts or cultural events are also the people who volunteer for or contribute to arts or cultural organizations. One in four residents (23 percent) who attended an arts or cultural event in the year preceding the interview contributed to an organization that sponsors such activities. Only slightly lower percentages of attendees (18 percent) volunteered for such an organization in the past year. Those who did not attend any arts or cultural events in the past year are far less likely to have either contributed to (5 percent) or volunteered for (2 percent) such organizations.

TABLE 59: KNIGHT COMMUNITIES AND THE NATION–
VOLUNTEERISM AND CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Community	Area Surveyed	*Percent Who...* Volunteered in the past year	Contributed money or belongings in 1998
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	20	26
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	18	19
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	17	22
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	17	21
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	17	20
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	17	17
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	16	19
State College, PA	Centre County	16	15
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	16	14
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	16	13
Macon, GA	Bibb County	16	13
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	15	22
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	15	19
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	15	15
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	14	21
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	14	20
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	14	19
National		14	17
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	14	16
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	14	16
Akron, OH	Summit County	14	15
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	14	15
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	14	14
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	13	17
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	12	15
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	12	15
Milledgevilie, GA	Baldwin County	11	11

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX I

Survey Methodology For National Survey

The national survey results are based on telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of 1,206 adults 18 and older living in telephone households in the continental United States. Interviews were completed in either English or Spanish, according to the preference of the respondent. The interviews were conducted from Oct. 11, 1999 through Nov. 14, 1999.

Sample Design

The sample is based on a disproportionately stratified random-digit sample of telephone numbers. A disproportionate, rather than a proportionate, stratified sample was used so that the final sample of completed interviews would contain a disproportionately large number of African-American and Hispanic respondents.

To achieve this oversampling, telephone numbers were grouped into strata based on the racial and ethnic characteristics of their telephone exchange and each stratum was sampled at a different rate. For example, telephone exchanges that serve geographic areas that are densely populated with African-American and Hispanic households were grouped together in a single high-density stratum and numbers in this stratum had the highest probability of selection. On the other hand, telephone numbers in areas with predominately white non-Hispanic households were grouped together in a single low density stratum and these numbers had the lowest probability of selection. Altogether, five strata were used in this design and each was sampled at a different rate. The data are weighted in analysis to remove the disproportionality of the selection rates by stratum and to make the data fully representative.

The sample for this survey was designed to produce a representative sample of telephone households in the continental United States. The selected sample is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States and was drawn by Survey Sampling Inc. of Westport, Conn. following Princeton Survey Research Associates' specifications.

The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias. The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange (the first three digits of a seven-digit telephone number), and bank number (the fourth and fifth digits).

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Within each stratum telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected proportionally by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, within each stratum the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone numbers in the United States. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing one or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates, which are random subsamples of the larger sample. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. The use of replicates also ensures that the regional distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Again, this works to increase the representativeness of the final sample.

At least 10 attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is at home." If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home." This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Weighting

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. For example, men are more difficult than women to reach at home by telephone, and people with relatively low educational attainment are less likely than others to agree to participate in telephone surveys. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters were derived from an analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau Annual Demographic File (March 1999 Current Population Survey). This analysis produced

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population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults age 18 and older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States where there is a telephone in the household, for comparability to the sample design used for this survey. The results have been weighted to adjust for variations in the sample relating to sex, age, race and education. The weights were derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters.

Statistical Tests

PSRA calculated the effects of the sample weights on the statistical efficiency of the sample design, so that an adjustment can be incorporated into tests of statistical significance when using these data. This so-called design effect or "deff" represents the loss in statistical efficiency that results from systematically undersampling (through sample design and non-response) parts of the population of interest.

The square root of the design effect should be multiplied by the standard error of a statistic in computing tests of statistical significance. Thus the formula for computing the 95 percent confidence interval around a percentage is:

$$1.96 \times \sqrt{\text{design effect}} \times \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{\text{unweighted } n}}$$

The square root of the design effect for this sample is 1.20. Using this formula, we calculate the 95 percent confidence interval for results expressed as percentages in this study as plus or minus 3 percentage points for results near 50 percent based on the total sample.

The formula for computing the 95 percent confidence interval around a difference between percentages is:

$$1.96 \times \sqrt{\text{def for group 1} \times \frac{p_1(1-p_1)}{\text{unweighted } n_1} + \text{def for group 2} \times \frac{p_2(1-p_2)}{\text{unweighted } n_2}}$$

The above formulas may be used to calculate the confidence interval around any percentage or any difference between percentages for the results reported.

Response Rate

Following is the full disposition of all sampled telephone numbers:

Non-sample numbers:	
Telephone number not in service	1,029
Business or government number	831
Fax or modem number	301
75 percent of no answer on all attempts	319
	2,480
Potential non-sample numbers:	
25 percent of no answer on all attempts	106
No answer on last attempt	249
Busy signal	57
	412
Households with unknown eligibility:	
Call back another time	317
Answering machine answers	203
Language or health barrier	154
Unavailable or away for duration	28
	702
Households that refused interview	616
Households with no eligible member:	
No person 18 years or older	54
Households with eligible member:	
Incomplete interviews	48
Complete interviews	1,206
	1,254
Total telephone numbers	5,518

PSRA calculates a response rate as the product of three individual rates: the contact rate, the cooperation rate, and the completion rate. Of the residential numbers in the sample, 63.3 percent were contacted by an interviewer and 68.0 percent agreed to participate in the survey. Ninety-six percent were found eligible for the interview. Furthermore, 96.2 percent of eligible respondents completed the interview. Therefore, the final response rate is 41 percent.

The following table provides the basic statistics for each of the 26 individual Knight community surveys. For additional methodological information on a specific community refer to the customized survey report on that city.[1]

TABLE 60: BASIC STATISTICS FOR THE 26 KNIGHT COMMUNITIES

Community Name	Area Surveyed	Total Number of Interviews	Margin of Error	Overall Response Rate
Aberdeen, SD	Brown County	500	±5	53%
Akron, OH	Summit County	500	±5	36%
Biloxi, MS	Harrison County	500	±5	50%
Boca Raton, FL	Palm Beach County	500	±5	33%
Boulder, CO	Boulder County	500	±5	41%
Bradenton, FL	Manatee County	500	±5	35%
Charlotte, NC	Mecklenburg County	800	±4	42%
Columbia, SC	Lexington & Richland counties	800	±4	48%
Columbus, GA	Muscogee County	800	±4	50%
Detroit, MI	Wayne County	800	±4	40%
Duluth, MN	St. Louis County	500	±5	50%
Fort Wayne, IN	Allen County	500	±5	45%
Gary, IN	Defined by ZIP code	500	±5	49%
Grand Forks, ND	Grand Forks County	500	±5	59%
Lexington, KY	Fayette County	500	±5	46%
Long Beach, CA	Defined by ZIP code	800	±3	35%
Macon, GA	Bibb County	800	±4	42%
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade & Broward counties	1,300	±3	28%
Milledgeville, GA	Baldwin County	500	±5	46%
Myrtle Beach, SC	Horry County	500	±5	38%
Philadelphia, PA	Philadelphia County	804	±4	32%
St. Paul, MN	Ramsey County	500	±5	43%
San Jose, CA	Santa Clara County	800	±4	33%
State College, PA	Centre County	500	±5	52%
Tallahassee, FL	Leon County	501	±5	46%
Wichita, KS	Sedgwick County	501	±5	44%

1 For PDF versions of Knight community survey reports, go to http://www.knightfdn.org or contact the Foundation at (305) 908-2600.

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The Community Indicators Study – National Survey

PRINCETON SURVEY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES FOR THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION

TOPLINE RESULTS
Nov. 30, 1999

Total General Population:	1,206 adults age 18 and older
	Margin of error: Plus or minus 3 percentage points
Total African-Americans:	221 adults age 18 and older
	Margin of error: Plus or minus 6 percentage points
Total Hispanics:	162 adults age 18 and older
	Margin of error: Plus or minus 9 percentage points
Dates of interviewing:	Oct. 11–Nov. 14, 1999

Note: Because percentages are rounded they may not total 100 percent.

INTRODUCTION: Hello, my name is _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research of Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting an opinion survey about life in your community. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. (**IF NO MALE, ASK:** May I speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?)

S1. We're giving people a choice of being interviewed in English or in Spanish. Would you like to continue in English, or would you rather be interviewed in Spanish?

S2. Which of the following BEST describes the place where you now live – a large city, a suburb near a large city, a small city or town, or a rural area?

D1. **RECORD RESPONDENT'S SEX:**
48 Male
52 Female

1. Overall, how would you rate your **(CITY/SUBURB/TOWN/AREA)** as a place to live? Would you say it is . . . **(READ)**

   36 Excellent
   46 Good
   15 Only fair
    3 Poor
   *[2] **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

2. About how long have you lived in your **(CITY/SUBURB/TOWN/AREA)**? Have you lived here . . . **(READ)**

    5 Less than one year
   21 One to five years
   14 Six to ten years
   18 11 to 20 years
   42 More than 20 years
    0 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

3. And which of the following statements best describes how you feel about living in your **(CITY/SUBURB/TOWN/AREA)** and your future plans, even if none is exactly right? Here are the statements . . . **(READ IN ORDER) IF NECESSARY:** Which one best describes how you feel?

   79 I'm happy here and will probably stay for the next five years
    6 I'm unhappy here but will probably stay for the next five years
    8 I'm unhappy and will probably move in the next five years
    6 **(DO NOT READ)** I'm happy here but will probably move in the next five years/Happy but have to move
    1 **(DO NOT READ)** Other
    2 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

4. I'm going to read a list of local institutions and organizations. For each one, please tell me if you think they are doing an excellent job, a good job, a fair job, or a poor job serving your community. (First/How about) **(INSERT ITEMS. ROTATE)** – are they doing an excellent job, a good job, a fair job, or a poor job?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Can't rate	DK/ Ref.
a. Your local police department	23	51	19	5	2	1
b. Your local fire department	39	51	5	1	2	2
c. Your local public schools	19	44	22	7	5	3
d. Your city or town government	8	47	33	7	3	2
e. Your local public libraries	31	48	10	2	7	2

2 An asterisk indicates a value of less than .5%

5. And, in general, how safe would you say you and your family are from crime at each of the following locations? (First/How about,) . . . **(READ AND ROTATE)**—are you very safe, somewhat safe, not too safe or not at all safe from crime?

	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Not too safe	Not at all safe	DK/ Ref.
a. At home at night	74	23	2	1	*
b. When walking in your neighborhood after dark	51	32	9	3	4
c. When downtown at night	32	37	14	8	9

6. Overall, how much impact do you think people like you can have in making your community a better place to live . . . **(READ)**

28 A big impact
46 A moderate impact
18 A small impact
7 No impact at all
2 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

7. And what do you think is the most effective way people can have an impact? Is it to . . . **(READ AND ROTATE CATEGORIES)**

Based on those who think they can have at least a small impact

43 Get other people involved
36 Volunteer time
8 Complain to authorities
3 Give money
7 **(ALWAYS ASK LAST)** Some other way
3 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
(n=1,116)

8. Now as I read a list of community programs and groups, please tell me if you spent time volunteering for a program or group like this in the PAST 12 MONTHS. By volunteering I mean spending your time helping without being paid for it. In the past 12 months have you volunteered your time to **(INSERT FIRST ITEM. ROTATE)**? How about **(INSERT ITEMS. ROTATE)**?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref.
a. A tutoring or other educational program such as an after-school program or Sunday school class	26	74	*
b. An arts or cultural group, such as a museum, theater or music group	14	86	*
c. A youth development program such as a day care center, scouts or little league	29	71	*
d. A neighborhood or civic group such as a block association or neighborhood watch	26	73	*
e. A program that helps poor, elderly or homeless people	31	69	*

Now still thinking about your activities . . .

9. IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, about how many times, if at all, have you done the following activities? In the past 12 months, about how many times have you . . . **(READ AND ROTATE)? IF NECESSARY PROBE:** "Just your best guess is fine." **RECORD EXACT NUMBER**

	0	1	2	3–5	6–10	11+	DK/ Ref.
a. Gone to an art museum, or other place that displays art work	56	20	10	9	3	2	*
b. Gone to a science or history museum	61	19	10	8	2	*	*
Items c & d rotated as a pair, in order							
c. Gone to hear a symphony orchestra	81	10	5	2	1	1	0
d. Gone to hear any other live music performance	41	14	14	21	6	4	*
e. Attended a play, dance or other theater performance	54	12	12	15	4	2	0
f. Gone to see a movie	28	8	10	19	15	20	*
g. Gone to see a sports event	40	7	11	17	10	15	*

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10. Next, I am going to read a list of some different types of organizations to which people contribute money or personal belongings. By contributing, I mean making a voluntary contribution with no intention of obtaining goods or services for yourself. As I read each one, please tell me whether you or any member of your household contributed money or personal belongings to this type of organization in 1998. (First/Next,) . . .**(READ AND ROTATE)**

PROMPT: In 1998, did you or anyone in your household contribute to . . .

	Yes	No	DK/Ref.
Item a always asked first			
a. Churches, synagogues or other religious organizations	72	28	*
b. Hospital or health organizations, including those that fight particular diseases	43	56	1
c. Schools, colleges or other educational organizations	46	54	*
d. Arts or cultural organizations	17	83	*
e. Youth development programs or organizations for children	46	53	1
f. Organizations that help poor, elderly or homeless people	61	39	1
Item g always asked last			
g. Some other type of group or organization I haven't mentioned	40	59	1

On a slightly different subject . . .

11. Do you happen to know the names of your neighbors who live close to you, or not? **IF YES, PROBE:** All of them or only some of them?

36 Yes, know them all
46 Yes, only some
17 No, do not know any
* Don't have neighbors close by **(VOL.)**
0 Don't know/Refused

12. As far as you know, are the people in your neighborhood all the same race as you, are most the same race as you, is there a mixture of racial groups, or are most people in your neighborhood of a different race from you?

29 All the same race
27 Most the same race
38 Mixture of racial groups
5 Most a different race/Predominantly another race
1 Don't know/Refused

13. Again, thinking about your **(CITY/SUBURB/TOWN/AREA)**. . . I'm going to read a list of problems some communities face. For each one, please tell me if it is a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem in the community where you live. (First/Next,) . . . **(READ AND ROTATE)**–is this a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem (in the community where you live)?

	Big problem	Small problem	Not a problem	DK/ Ref.
a. Crime, drugs or violence	26	44	29	2
b. Unemployment	17	37	41	6
c. The public schools do not provide quality education	15	24	53	8
d. Homelessness	14	32	52	3
e. Not enough arts or cultural activities	19	27	48	6
f. Illiteracy, that is people do not have basic reading skills	14	34	41	11
g. Not enough AFFORDABLE, quality child care	20	26	37	18
h. Abandoned or run-down buildings	11	31	57	1
i. Too many unsupervised children and teenagers	28	32	37	3
j. People don't get involved in efforts to improve the community	26	36	33	5
k. Not enough affordable housing	25	30	41	5
Item l always asked last				
l. Tension between different racial and ethnic groups	12	32	53	2

14. Of the problems you think are big ones in your community which one is the MOST important problem? Is it **(READ ALL ITEMS WITH A "BIG" RESPONSE IN Q.13a-l)**

15 Crime, drugs or violence
9 Too many unsupervised children and teenagers
8 Not enough affordable housing
7 People don't get involved in efforts to improve the community
7 The public schools do not provide quality education
5 Not enough arts or cultural activities
4 Not enough affordable, quality child care
3 Unemployment
3 Tension between different racial and ethnic groups
2 Homelessness
2 Illiteracy
1 Abandoned or run-down buildings
1 **(DO NOT READ)** Other problem
1 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
33 No big problems mentioned in Q.13

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CUSTOM QUESTIONS

Now, I'd like your opinion on a few more things. First, . . .

NATL1. (And) Is it your impression that **(READ AND ROTATE ITEMS)** contribute as much as they should to help support efforts to improve the community or that they should contribute more to help your local area?

	Contribute as much as they should	Should Contribute more	DK/ Ref.
a. Wealthy people living in YOUR LOCAL AREA	36	42	22
b. Businesses and corporations in YOUR LOCAL AREA	45	44	11

NATL2 Thinking now about youth in your local area, which of the following groups do you think has the biggest influence on the values and the actions of children and teenagers today? Would you say . . . **(READ AND ROTATE CATEGORIES 1-5) ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE**

30 Parents
24 Peers
23 Entertainment such as music, films, television or video games
9 Schools
9 Churches or other religious organizations
* **(DO NOT READ)** None of them
1 **(DO NOT READ)** Other
3 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

NATL3. And thinking about the job prospects and career opportunities for young people in your local area. . . .How would you rate your local area in terms of its CAREER OPPORTUNITIES for young people? Would you say it provides young people with excellent career opportunities, good career opportunities, fair career opportunities, or poor career opportunities?

12 Excellent career opportunities
32 Good career opportunities
34 Fair career opportunities
18 Poor career opportunities
4 Don't know/Refused

NATL4. How much have you heard about "charter schools" opening in your local area. These are privately run schools funded by public money. Have you heard a lot, some, a little or nothing at all about charter schools?

11 A lot
16 Some
17 A little
53 Nothing at all
2 Don't have these kinds of schools in local area/No charter schools in local area **(VOL.)**
2 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

NATL5. I'm going to read you two statements some people have made about charter schools. Please tell me if the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your view, even if neither one is exactly right. First **(READ AND ROTATE STATEMENTS) IF NECESSARY**: Which comes closer to your view?

52 Charter schools are GOOD for local education because they allow the individual schools more flexibility to address student needs
27 Charter schools are BAD for local education because they use money that would otherwise go to the local public schools
4 Neither/Both (VOL)
17 Don't know/Refused

As I read a couple more pairs of statements, please tell me if the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your view, even if neither one is exactly right. First,

NATL6. Some people say it is more important that children attend schools near their homes, even if it means that most students are of the same race. Others say it is more important that children attend schools with students of other races, even if it means busing children some distance from their homes. **IF NECESSARY:** Which of these views comes closer to your own?

66 More important that children attend schools near their homes, even if most students of the same race
28 More important that children attend schools with students of other races, even if that means busing them some distance from their homes
3 **(DO NOT READ)** Neither
3 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

NATL7. The last pair of statements is about RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY. . . **(READ AND ROTATE STATEMENTS) IF NECESSARY:** Which one comes closer to your view?

69 Racial and ethnic diversity strengthens my community because people's different experiences and points of view help when trying to solve problems
19 Racial and ethnic diversity is a burden on my community because people's differences make it harder to get things done
3 **(DO NOT READ)** Neither
4 **(DO NOT READ)** Doesn't apply/Not in a diverse community
5 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

NATL8. Now looking ahead five years from today, please tell me if you think race relations in your community will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

25 Get better
11 Get worse
60 Stay about the same
4 Don't know/Refused

MEDIA QUESTIONS

Now I have a few questions about where you get news and information. . .

M1. How often do you . . . **(READ AND ROTATE)**—every day, a few times a week, once a week, less than once a week, or never?

	Every day	A few times a week	Once a week	Less than once a week	Never	DK/ Ref.
Items a & b rotated as a pair. Item a always followed item b.						
a. Read a NATIONAL daily newspaper such as the New York Times or USA Today	8	7	12	21	52	*
b. Read a LOCAL daily newspaper	49	19	15	7	10	*
c. Watch LOCAL TV news about your viewing area	66	20	4	3	6	0
d. Go online to access the Internet for news, e-mail or other reasons?	25	13	6	6	50	*

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M2. Please rate how much you think you can believe each of the following news organizations I describe. (First,/And) **(READ AND ROTATE)**? Would you say you believe almost all of what it says, most of what it says, only some, or almost nothing of what it says?

	Almost all/All	Most	Only some	Almost nothing/ Nothing	Can't rate	DK/ Ref.
a. The LOCAL daily newspaper you are most familiar with	21	46	27	3	3	1
b. The LOCAL TV news program you are most familiar with	24	46	25	3	2	*

DEMOGRAPHICS

Finally, I have just a few questions so we can describe the people who took part in our survey . . .

D2. Are you now employed full-time, part-time, are you retired, or are you not employed for pay?

56 Employed full-time
11 Employed part-time
19 Retired
10 Not employed
1 Disabled **(VOL.)**
1 Student **(VOL.)**
2 Other **(VOL.)**
* Don't know/Refused

D2a. Are you also a full- or part-time student?

15 Total students
6 Yes, full-time
8 Yes, part-time
85 No, not a student
* Don't know/Refused

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D3. Are you married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

53 Married
4 Living as married
7 Widowed
12 Divorced
3 Separated
21 Never married
* Refused

D4. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under age 18 now living in your household?

36 Yes
63 No
* Don't know/ Refused

D5. Are any of these children . . . **(READ IN ORDER)**

	Yes	No	DK/ Ref.
a. Under age five?	14	86	0
b. Five to 17 years old?	29	71	0

D6. Are you now registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you had a chance to register?

78 Yes/Don't have to register
22 No
* Don't know/Refused

D7. In general, would you describe your political views as . . . **(READ)**

5 Very conservative
34 Conservative
35 Moderate
15 Liberal
4 Very liberal
7 (DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused

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D8. How often do you go to church, synagogue, or some other place of worship? Would you say . . . **(READ)**

4 Daily
37 About once week
15 About once a month
21 Several times a year
22 Don't go to worship services
1 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused

D9. What is your age?

20 18 to 29
22 30 to 39
20 40 to 49
19 50 to 64
16 65 or older
2 Refused

D10. What is the last grade or class you completed in school? **(DO NOT READ)**

4 None, or grade 1 to 8
12 High school incomplete (Grades 9-11)
33 High school graduate, Grade 12, or GED certificate
3 Business, technical, or vocational school AFTER high school
23 Some college or university work, but no four-year degree
15 College or university graduate
9 Post graduate or professional schooling after college
* Refused

D11. Are you of Hispanic or Latino background, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or other Spanish background?

10 Yes
90 No
* Refused

D12. What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian, American Indian or some other race? **IF R SAYS HISPANIC OR LATINO, PROBE:** Do you consider yourself a WHITE (Hispanic/Latino) or a BLACK (Hispanic/Latino)?

82 White
11 Black or African-American
1 Asian or Pacific Islander
1 American Indian or Alaskan Native
1 Mixed-race
2 Other
2 Refused

D13. Could you also describe yourself as mixed race because, for example, your parents or grandparents have different racial backgrounds from one another?

18 Yes
81 No
1 Don't know
1 Refused

D14. Do you own or rent your home?

67 Own
30 Rent
3 Other arrangement
* Refused

D15. Approximately what is your total family income before taxes – just tell me when I get to the right category. **(READ)**

7 Less than $10,000
11 $10,000 to under $20,000
16 $20,000 to under $30,000
12 $30,000 to under $40,000
18 $40,000 to under $60,000
14 $60,000 to under $100,000
7 $100,000 or over
5 Don't know
10 Refused

END OF INTERVIEW: Thank you very much for taking the time to answer the questions on this survey. We really appreciate it. Have a nice day/evening.

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APPENDIX III: SOURCES OF DATA

SOURCES OF DATA

Community Indicators	Source Data
DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL CONTEXT OF COMMUNITIES	
General Population Characteristics	
Total Population	1983 County and City Databook
	U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates program
Community Diversity	
Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Population	U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates program
	(http //www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/popest.html)
Socioeconomic Status	
Educational Attainment	U.S. Census Bureau CD-ROM at: http://venus.census.gov/cdrom/lookup
Median Household Income	1994 County and City Databook
	U.S. Census Bureau web site
	Bureau of Labor Statistics
Special Needs Population	
Youth Population	1994 County and City Databook
	Census Bureau's Population Estimates program
	(http://www.census.gov/population/estimates); Also see page 16
Elderly Population	1983 County and City Databook
	1994 County and City Databook
	Census Bureau:
	(http://www.census.gov/population/estimates/nation/intfile2-1.txt,
	"Resident Population Estimates of the U.S. by Age and Sex")
	U. S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates program
Non-English-Speaking Population	1994 County and City Databook
	U.S. Census Bureau's "Small Area Poverty Estimates"
	(http://www.census.gov/hhes/estimatetoc.html)
Poverty Level of Children	1983 County and City Databook
	U.S. Census Bureau's "Small Area Poverty Estimates"
	(http://www.census.gov/hhes/estimatetoc.html)
Labor Force Characteristics	
Average Wage by Major Industry	U.S. Census Bureau's "County Business Patterns" web site
	(http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html)
	U.S. Census Bureau's "County Business Patterns" web site
	(http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html)
Unemployment Rate	Bureau of Labor Statistics (http://146.142.4.24/cgi-bin/surveymost?la)
	U.S. Census Bureau's "County Business Patterns" database
	(http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html)

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SOURCES OF DATA

Community Indicators	Source Data
Criminal Justice	
Police Officers per 1,000 Population	Bureau of Justice Statistics' Law Enforcement
	Management and Administrative Statistics Report (LEMAS)
	FBI Uniform Crime Reports
Law Enforcement Budget per Capita	U.S. Census Bureau's Census of Governments
	(Report of State and Local Government Finance Estimates, by State)
	Local agencies
	Bureau of Justice Statistics' Law
	Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS)
WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	
Child Well-Being	
Infant Mortality	National Center for Health Statistics
	State Departments of Health in selected states
Mothers Who Smoked During Pregnancy	National Vital Statistics System
	State Departments of Health in selected states
Women Receiving Prenatal Care	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
	State Departments of Health in selected states
Low Birth Weight	National Center for Health Statistics
	State Departments of Health in selected states
Physicians per 1,000 Population	American Medical Association
	Physician Data by County, 1993
Pediatricians per 1,000 Child Population	American Medical Association
	Physician Data by County, 1993
Youth and Juvenile Justice	
Juvenile Arrests for Serious Crimes	National Center for Juvenile Justice (Office of Juvenile
	Justice and Delinquency Prevention), Pittsburgh, Pa.
	Easy Access Software to FBI arrests statistics, 1994-1997
	Easy Access Software to FBI arrests statistics, 1991-1995
EDUCATION	
School Environment Context	
Total Student Enrollment	National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), "1999 Condition of Education"
	(http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us/htmls/education.html)
Student Racial and Ethnic Composition	State Departments of Education in selected states
Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Participation	Schools from selected states
	www.fns.usda.gov/pd/slsummar.htm
	State Departments of Education in selected states
Private School Enrollment	U.S. Department of Education, National Center
	for Education Statistics, Private School Survey
Postsecondary Enrollment	NCES Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System data sets

Sources of Data

Community Indicators	Source Data
Financial and Human Resources	
Average Teacher Salary	National Center for Education Statistics
	"State Comparisons of Education Statistics,"
	www.aft.org/research/salary/Home.htm
Teachers with Master's Degree	National Center for Education Statistics publication
	"Teacher Quality: A Report on the Preparation
	and Qualifications of Public School Teachers"
	State Departments of Education in selected states
Student-Teacher Ratio	National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data
Student Achievement and System Outcomes	
State Standardized Tests - Third Grade Reading and Math	State Departments of Education in selected states
	School District Report Cards in selected states
SAT Performance	State Departments of Education in selected states
Dropout Rate	National Center for Education Statistics (NCES),
	"1999 Condition of Education"
Community Literacy	
Adult Literacy	National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS)
	1990 U.S. Census
Public Library Usage - Total	National Center for Education Statistics "Public Libraries Survey"
Newpaper Circulation	Audit Bureau of Circulations, Quarterly Reports 3/90/99 and 9/16/99
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Housing Affordability	
Median Housing Value	U.S. Census Bureau, 1980 and 1990
Monthly Income Spent on Housing	U.S. Census Bureau, 1990
Housing Stock	
Age of Housing Units by Range	U.S. Census Bureau, 1990
New Home Construction: Building Permits	County and City Data Book, 1983 and 1994
Housing Stability	
Residential Mobility	U.S. Census Bureau, 1980 and 1990
Occupied and Vacant Housing Units	U.S. Census Bureau, 1990
Owner-Occupied and Rental Housing	U.S. Census Bureau, 1980 and 1990
Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice	
Violent Crime Index	FBI Uniform Crime Reports
Total Crime Index	FBI Uniform Crime Reports
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	
Voter Turnout	Election Data Services
Voter Registration	Election Data Services

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